United Nations S/PV.4959

Security Council

Fifty-ninth year

Provisional

4959th meeting

Friday, 30 April 2004, 12.15 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Pleuger	(Germany)
Members:	Algeria	Mr. Benmehidi
	Angola	Mr. Gaspar Martins
	Benin	Mr. Adechi
	Brazil	Mr. Sardenberg
	Chile	Mr. Huenchumilla
	China	Mr. Wang Guangya
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Pakistan	Mr. Khalid
	Philippines	Mr. Baja
	Romania	Mr. Motoc
	Russian Federation	Mr. Konuzin
	Spain	Ms. Menéndez
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. King
	United States of America	Mr. Holliday

Agenda

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

04-33198 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 12.15 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Côte d'Ivoire, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Djangoné-Bi (Côte d'Ivoire) took the seat reserved for him at the Council table.

The President: The Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

After consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council expresses its grave concern at the events that occurred in Côte d'Ivoire at the end of March and at the current impasse in the peace process defined in the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement.

"The Security Council underscores the importance of investigating all alleged violations of human rights committed in Côte d'Ivoire so that those responsible do not remain unpunished.

"The Security Council reaffirms its strong commitment to the territorial integrity and unity of Côte d'Ivoire.

"The Security Council recalls that it endorsed the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement, which remains the only possible solution to the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire.

"The Security Council further recalls that all Ivorian political forces have committed themselves to implement fully and with no conditions the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement. The Security Council decided, on the basis of this commitment, to deploy the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire to support the process of peaceful settlement of the crisis, which is to culminate in 2005 with the organization of free, fair and transparent elections.

"The Security Council emphasizes the individual responsibility of each of the Ivorian actors in the settlement of the crisis.

"The Security Council expresses its readiness to consider further steps to encourage full implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement and to promote the process of national reconciliation in Côte d'Ivoire, including actions that might be taken, if necessary, against individuals whose activities are an obstacle to the full implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2004/12.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.4960

Security Council

Fifty-ninth year

Provisional

4960th meeting

Friday, 30 April 2004, 12.20 p.m.

New York

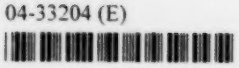
President:	Mr. Pleuger	(Germany)
Members:	Algeria	Mr. Benmehidi
	Angola	Mr. Gaspar Martins
	Benin	Mr. Adechi
	Brazil	Mr. Sardenberg
	Chile	Mr. Huenchumilla
	China	Mr. Wang Guangya
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Pakistan	Mr. Khalid
	Philippines	Mr. Baja
	Romania	Mr. Motoc
	Russian Federation	Mr. Konuzin
	Spain	Ms. Menéndez
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. King
	United States of America	Mr. Holliday

Agenda

Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

04-33204 (E)



The meeting was called to order at 12.20 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Serbia and Montenegro in which he requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr Kaludjerović (Serbia and Montenegro) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

After consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

> "The Security Council notes that the presentation of the Kosovo Standards Implementation Plan (KSIP) on 31 March 2004 in Pristina, Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro), is a step forward in the standards process. The Council reiterates that the KSIP should serve as a basis for the assessment of progress of the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government (PISG) in meeting the standards. The Council in this respect urges strongly the PISG to demonstrate their full and unconditional commitment to a multi-ethnic Kosovo, in particular with respect to the protection and promotion of rights of members of the minority communities as well as of human rights, equal security, freedom of movement and sustainable returns for all inhabitants of Kosovo. The Council reiterates further that the progress by the PISG in meeting the standards, which should be reflected throughout Kosovo, will be assessed periodically and that the advancement towards a process to determine the future status of Kosovo in accordance with resolution 1244 (1999) will depend on the positive outcome of a comprehensive review.
>
> "The Security Council reaffirms its full support for the 'Standards before Status' policy that was devised for Kosovo and endorsed by the Council in application of its resolution 1244 (1999). It recalls in this context the document 'Standards for Kosovo', presented on 10 December 2003 and subsequently supported by the Council in the statement of its President of 12 December 2003, which outlined the standards that are to be achieved in order to reach the goal of establishing in Kosovo a multi-ethnic, stable and democratic society.
>
> "The Security Council stresses that it is essential, as indicated in the KSIP, to review and revise in a timely manner two key sections of the document, namely on 'sustainable returns and the rights of communities and their members' and on 'freedom of movement'. The Council calls on the PISG to take urgent steps on these two standards in order to rebuild and reach out to the Serb and other communities that suffered most in the large-scale inter-ethnic violence of 17-20 March 2004 that resulted in many dead and wounded and the destruction of personal property and Serbian Orthodox churches and monasteries in Kosovo.
>
> "The Security Council, strongly condemning those events, emphasizes that no party can be allowed to profit or to advance a political agenda through violent measures. It calls on the PISG and all political leaders to take responsibility in the current situation and to ensure that such acts and threats of violence are not repeated. The Council underscores that immediate actions should be taken aimed at the establishment of and public respect for the rule of law, including prosecution of perpetrators, effective collection of illegal weapons and combating organized crime. The Council urges the PISG to take concrete steps to fulfil their commitment to rebuild multi-ethnicity and reconciliation throughout Kosovo, as promised in the open letter of institutional and political leaders of 2 April 2004. The Council asserts

further that, in addition, there must be rapid steps taken by the PISG to fulfil their commitment to rebuild or provide appropriate compensation for damaged or destroyed property, to rebuild holy sites and to facilitate the return of those displaced from their homes.

"When assessing the progress made by the PISG, the Security Council would pay particular attention to the adoption and the implementation of laws and regulations, policies and attitudes of the PISG, among others, in the following areas: the fight against discrimination, corruption and economic crimes; propagation of hate by the media, as well as the support for multi-ethnicity and reconciliation; genuine devolution; orderly and sustainable returns; effective functioning of the Assembly and of the political parties; disciplinary procedures for the civil service; building up of a professional, politically neutral and multi-ethnic administration at central and local levels with a view to providing public services to every community on an equal footing; efficient strategy for the return of refugees and internally displaced persons in safe conditions; a constructive engagement with UNMIK; and full participation in the direct dialogue with Belgrade.

"The Security Council underlines the importance that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, within his authority as set out in resolution 1244 (1999), inter alia in the context of the review mechanism, continue to consult closely with interested parties, in particular the Contact Group. The Council reaffirms its intention to continue to consider the regular reports of the Secretary-General, including an assessment from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, as to the PISG's progress towards meeting the standards. The Council takes note that the Contact Group intends to make a substantive contribution to the regular reviews and to submit its assessments to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General.

"The Security Council requests the Secretary-General, in his next report to the Council, to include a comprehensive assessment of the violence of 17 to 20 March 2004.

"The Security Council also requests the Secretary-General to present recommendations on possible new institutional arrangements respectful of the objective of building a democratic and multi-ethnic Kosovo to allow more effective local government through devolution of central non-reserved responsibilities to local authorities and communities in Kosovo, taking into account relevant studies and recommendations of interested parties and international organizations. How that local Government is organized is a matter for further discussion between interested parties in Kosovo.

"The Security Council welcomes the strong measures by the international presence in Kosovo aimed at enhancing the security and protection of all communities, as well as their religious, historical and cultural sites, with the goal of ensuring lasting stability in Kosovo. It calls, in this respect, for the full cooperation of the PISG and all concerned.

"The Security Council will continue to follow the matter closely."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2004/13.

Before concluding the meeting, I would like to welcome the Secretary-General to this meeting.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.4961

Security Council

Fifty-ninth year

Provisional

4961 st meeting

Friday, 30 April 2004, 12.35 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Pleuger	(Germany)
Members:	Algeria	Mr. Benmehidi
	Angola	Mr. Gaspar Martins
	Benin	Mr. Adechi
	Brazil	Mr. Sardenberg
	Chile	Mr. Huenchumilla
	China	Mr. Wang Guangya
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Pakistan	Mr. Khalid
	Philippines	Mr. Baja
	Romania	Mr. Dumitru
	Russian Federation	Mr. Konuzin
	Spain	Ms. Menéndez
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. King
	United States of America	Mr. Holliday

Agenda

The situation concerning Haiti

Report of the Secretary-General on Haiti (S/2004/3000)

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04-33260 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 12.35 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The question concerning Haiti

Report of the Secretary-General on Haiti (S/2004/300)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Haiti, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Merores (Haiti) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the report of the Secretary-General on Haiti, document S/2004/300. Members of the Council also have before them document S/2004/334, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

I welcome the presence of the Secretary-General at this meeting.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall now put the draft resolution to the vote.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Algeria, Angola, Benin, Brazil, Chile, China, France, Germany, Pakistan, Philippines, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1542 (2004).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.4962

Security Council

Fifty-ninth year

Provisional

4962nd meeting

Thursday, 6 May 2004, 10 a.m.

New York

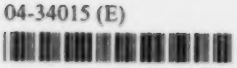
President:	Mr. Akram	(Pakistan)
Members:	Algeria	Mr. Benmehidi
	Angola	Mr. Gaspar Martins
	Benin	Mr. Adechi
	Brazil	Mr. Sardenberg
	Chile	Mr. Maquieira
	China	Mr. Zhang Yishan
	France	Mr. Duclos
	Germany	Mr. Trautwein
	Philippines	Mr. Baja
	Romania	Mr. Motoc
	Russian Federation	Mr. Smirnov
	Spain	Ms. Menéndez
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. King
	United States of America	Mr. Holliday

Agenda

Letter dated 31 March 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1998/287)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

04-34015 (E)



The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Expression of thanks to the retiring President

The President: As this is the first meeting of the Security Council for the month of May, I should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute on behalf of the Council to Ambassador Gunter Pleuger, Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations, for his service as President of the Council for the month of April 2004. I am sure I speak for all members of the Council in expressing deep appreciation to Ambassador Pleuger for the great diplomatic skill with which he conducted the Council's business last month.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Letter dated 31 March 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1998/287)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Fiji, Japan, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea, in which they request to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Aisi (Papua New Guinea) took a seat at the Council table; the representatives of the other aforementioned countries took the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President: In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations and in the absence of objection, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Danilo Türk, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I invite Mr. Türk to take a seat at the Council table.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by Mr. Danilo Türk, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs. I give him the floor.

Mr. Türk: At the last briefing, on 15 December 2003, I informed the Council that the Bougainville Revolutionary Army and the Bougainville Resistance Force agreed on the destruction of all contained weapons. I am pleased to inform the Council today that at the meeting of the Peace Process Consultative Committee held on 17 December 2003, that agreement was transformed into a binding resolution.

At the same briefing of 15 December, the Council supported the Secretary-General's recommendation to downsize the United Nations Political Office in Bougainville and to name its successor the United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville (UNOMB). UNOMB has been given a mandate to monitor, among other things, weapons destruction and the Bougainville constitutional process. The Mission is also expected, in accordance with its mandate and the amended Papua New Guinea Constitution, to verify and to certify that the level of security is conducive to holding elections.

Before I update the Council on this and other recent developments, I would like to express our satisfaction that the new Mission — the United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville, headed since 1 March 2004 by Mr. Tor Stenbock — is working in close cooperation and consultation with the national Government of Papua New Guinea and the Bougainville leaders. I would also like to use this opportunity today to commend the excellent work done in the position of Head of the Mission by the former Director, Mr. Noel Sinclair.

I would like to proceed to the update on weapons disposal. The stage III decision on the final fate of the weapons contained a provision that allowed ex-combatants, unit commanders and communities themselves to decide on the exact date and method of destruction. The United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville made full use of that flexibility by decentralizing the process of weapons destruction. As a

result, the Mission has succeeded in greatly expediting weapons destruction. In its publicized messages to the communities of Bougainville, UNOMB emphasized the full implementation of the Peace Agreement as the way to autonomy and lasting peace in Bougainville.

To date, 1,588 pieces of contained weapons — 81 per cent of the arsenals of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army and the Bougainville Resistance Force — have been destroyed. UNOMB has already certified that five of ten Bougainville districts have completed the weapons disposal programme. The destruction of the weapons has been accompanied by ceremonies that have been used as opportunities to promote awareness of the peace process across the island. We would like to note that the actual destruction of weapons has been carried out by the Bougainvilleans under UNOMB supervision.

The implementation of the weapons disposal programme represents significant progress for the people of Bougainville, who have suffered enormously as a consequence of the fighting, which ended several years ago. Their decision to make Bougainville weapons-free is a courageous act that deserves our highest praise and support, as are the specific steps taken recently that gave full meaning to that decision.

That also provides additional incentive for progress in the area of constitution-making. I would like to make a few references to the constitutional process.

At the Peace Process Consultative Committee meeting held on 25 February 2004, the Papua New Guinea Government provided the Bougainvillean leaders with its comments on the second draft of the Bougainville constitution. The Bougainville Constitutional Commission is working on incorporating those comments into the third and final draft of the constitution, which is expected to be produced by the end of this month. The draft would then be submitted for approval by the Bougainville Constituent Assembly in June 2004. Following its adoption by the Constituent Assembly, it would be submitted to the national Government for endorsement, which is expected to take place by the end of July. The earliest possible time frame for the elections would then be the end of November or the beginning of December 2004.

Following the completion of all constitutional phases, UNOMB will continue to consult closely with the Government of Papua New Guinea and with the parties in Bougainville regarding their intention to proceed to elections as soon as practicable. The Secretariat will come back to the Security Council to report on that matter and on progress made during the next briefing, in June 2004, prior to the expiration of UNOMB's mandate.

The Bougainville Interim Provincial Government has also begun to make preparations for the next steps in the electoral process by determining a timetable for the completion of the constitution and for elections for the autonomous Bougainville Government. The Provincial Government recently took another step towards autonomy by establishing a ministry for peace and autonomy. The new ministry will act as the Bougainville counterpart to the national Government's Bougainville Peace and Restoration Office. The ministry is also expected to ensure awareness of the peace process throughout Bougainville and to facilitate reconciliation ceremonies on the island.

I shall now say a few words about the Bougainville police. The National Executive Council delegated police powers and functions to the Bougainville Interim Provincial Government on 17 December 2003. In a further step towards autonomy, the Governor appointed the former leader of the Bougainville Resistance Force as Bougainville's first Minister of Police. In addition to the delegation of police powers, the law and justice programmes of Australia and New Zealand have further strengthened Bougainville's policing and judicial institutions. It is hoped that the programmes will, over time, help to build capacity for Bougainville's police, justice and correctional institutions. Furthermore, the Australian Federal Police plans to deploy 19 officers to Bougainville as part of an enhanced cooperation package with the Govemment of Papua New Guinea. So there has been significant progress in that domain as well.

There has also been some progress, however incremental, concerning the involvement of Francis Ona and his supporters in the peace process. On the positive side, the so-called "A" company — the dominant force in Mr. Ona's Me'ekamui Defence Force — has joined the peace process, and in April 2004 it completed destruction of its weapons. The "A" company has also been very active in conducting peace awareness meetings in the so-called no-go zone.

However, other elements of the Me'ekamui Defence Force have not contained their weapons. UNOMB has been informed that the zone's inhabitants are dissatisfied with restrictions on the freedom of their movement caused by the continued manning of the roadblocks, which inhibits access and the free flow of services and goods to the no-go zone. Regrettably, Francis Ona continues to avoid engaging in dialogue with the Bougainvillean leaders and with the national Government on this matter.

In its communications with Mr. Ona, the United Nations Observer Mission has been informing him of the most recent developments in the peace process and has been expressing its readiness to resume regular contacts with him. On the whole, we believe that progress with regard to Francis Ona has been significant and that his influence continues to be reduced.

Before concluding, I would like to say a few words about the coordination between the United Nations Observer Mission and United Nations agencies with regard to Bougainville. The Mission has continued to work in close cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNICEF and other United Nations organizations on the practical aspects of peace-building in Bougainville. The Mission has facilitated the expansion of UNICEF's programme on Bougainville by providing political, administrative and logistical support to that agency. A delegation from UNICEF recently visited Bougainville for 10 days of workshops and meetings. UNICEF is expected to establish an office in Arawa and to employ a locally hired programme manager.

The UNDP has nearly completed preparations for the implementation of its second-phase rehabilitation programme for Bougainville, which would include assistance in agriculture, capacity-building and other areas. The UNDP is scheduled to begin recruitment of an international programme manager, who would direct the implementation of the second phase of its Bougainville programme. The cooperation between UNDP and UNOMB in consolidating their offices in Buka has led to a reduction of their operational costs.

In conclusion, I would like to commend the parties for their commitment to the steady implementation of the Bougainville Peace Agreement and for increasingly assuming ownership of that process. It has already become a success story — a triumph of cooperative actions on the part of the successive Governments of Papa New Guinea, of the people of Bougainville, of regional partners and of a very small — but also very efficient — United Nations Mission. We call on the parties to maintain the momentum, and we urge them to redouble their efforts to finalize the Bougainville constitutional process, opening the way for the election of an autonomous Bougainville Government as soon as practicable this year. UNOMB will continue to assist them in that endeavour in every possible way.

The President: I thank Assistant Secretary-General Danilo Türk for his comprehensive briefing.

Mr. Benmehidi (Algeria) (*spoke in French*): I should like at the outset to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council. We are confident in your talents and in your ability to lead the Council's work. I should also like to pay a well-deserved tribute to Ambassador Gunter Pleuger and his team for an admirably efficient and professional presidency. In addition, I thank Mr. Danilo Türk for his comprehensive briefing on developments in the situation in Bougainville. We commend Ambassador Noel Sinclair and the staff of the United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville (UNOMB) for the excellent work they have accomplished.

We welcome the progress made in implementing the peace process in Bougainville. After the success achieved in phase II of the weapons collection process, we have noted that phase III — which consists of eliminating the weapons — has made significant progress: more than 80 per cent of the collected weapons have been destroyed.

We welcome the efforts of the Papua New Guinea authorities to advance the constitutional process, which is now at an important stage before the holding of elections resulting in the establishment of an autonomous Government. From that perspective, we have noted the progress made in elaborating the third draft of the constitution, which will soon be submitted to the Government of Papua New Guinea so that the Constituent Assembly can be convened to approve it.

The delegation of police powers and functions to the interim Government of Bougainville is a significant development that will help to establish an atmosphere conducive to the holding of elections.

Finally, as socio-economic development of the island is essential for Bougainville's autonomy, we believe that the donor community should provide enough financial support to Bougainville to promote its economy, it being understood that participation by United Nations funds and programmes will supplement donor efforts.

In conclusion, my delegation believes that the presence of the United Nations is very necessary until the completion of the peace process. The Mission's natural exit point will be the holding of free and democratic elections and the formation of an autonomous Government. In that regard, we are open to the idea of extending UNOMB's mandate until that time.

Mr. Holliday (United States of America): Once again, Sir, I would like to offer you congratulations on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council. I would also like to thank Assistant Secretary-General Türk for his briefing on the status of the political process and weapons disposal in Bougainville and on the work of the United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville (UNOMB).

We also appreciate the opportunity to hear the views of neighbouring States that work to promote stabilization and continue to provide development assistance in Bougainville. We would again like to express our gratitude to former Head of Mission Noel Sinclair, and we would like to thank the current Head of Mission, Tor Stenbock, for his continued efforts to facilitate the constitutional process and weapons disposal.

We appreciate the efforts of regional players in assisting development in Bougainville, in particular Australia's commitment to provide considerable financial assistance through the newly established governance and implementation fund.

The United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville (UNOMB) has achieved considerable progress since Assistant Secretary-General Türk last reported to the Council in December 2003. We are encouraged to hear that the United Nations Mission has now overseen the disposal of 83 per cent of the contained weapons in Bougainville. We hope that weapons destruction will be completed in the near future. We are also encouraged to learn that the Papua New Guinea Government and Bougainville leaders are working on the third and final draft of the Bougainville constitution. Both parties should work to complete the constitutional process as soon as possible. It is critical that Bougainvilleans have the opportunity to decide on an autonomous government, and therefore that the parties involved set a date for elections.

Mr. Trautwein (Germany): At the outset, let me congratulate you, Mr. President, on your assumption of the presidency of the Council. We are convinced that the Council will be under able and skilful leadership this month, and we wish you every success.

Let me also thank you, Sir, and other delegations for the kind words about the German presidency of the Council last month, especially those expressed to Ambassador Pleuger, which I will relay to him.

My delegation is grateful for the comprehensive briefing by Assistant Secretary-General Danilo Türk on the situation in Bougainville. Germany commends the success achieved by the parties and the United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville (UNOMB). We believe that Mr. Tor Stenbock and his one-person team are doing a remarkable job in the process leading to the election of the Bougainville autonomous government. It would be positive to see the mission accompanying the electoral process to its end. We also thank Mr. Noel Sinclair for his efforts for the people of Bougainville.

The adoption of the constitution will be a milestone in the process leading to the elections. We therefore welcome the work of the Bougainville Constitutional Committee, as well as the intention of the Government of Papua New Guinea to send envoys to Bougainville in order to resolve the issues outstanding in the third draft now on the table. We hope that the constitution can be adopted by the Constituent Assembly of Bougainville and approved by the Government of Papua New Guinea this summer, as has been agreed by the parties.

We commend the efforts by Papua New Guinea in setting up a ministerial committee to promote a proactive approach and to finalize the constitutional process. We also commend the assumption of political responsibility for peace and autonomy by James Tanis, Vice-President of the Bougainville People's Congress, in the Interim Provincial Government.

The success of the political process will essentially rely on completion of the disarmament programme. We therefore welcome the decision by the Peace Process Consultative Committee, chaired by the

Observer Mission, to destroy the collected weapons, as set out in Stage III of the disarmament process. We are pleased to learn from Mr. Türk that substantial progress has been made in this field. We call upon all parties to continue to remove weapons from ex-combatants, thus allowing the destruction of all illegal weapons in the country.

We welcome the decision by the Bougainville Revolutionary Army and Bougainville Resistance Force, as constructive participants in the Peace Process Consultative Committee, to agree to and participate in the destruction of all arms. We also welcome the reconciliation between the Bougainville Revolutionary Army commanders last week and hope that south Bougainville will soon join in Stage III.

We continue to encourage Francis Ona and his movement to fully join the peace process and to cooperate in all areas. In order to bring sustainable peace to a country and to yield long-term success, peace processes have to be inclusive, taking on board as many political factions as possible.

As the constitutional process leading to elections and the disarmament process seems to be making the necessary progress, it is timely for the parties and the international community also to address the social and economic problems in Bougainville.

Let me conclude by commending the efforts of New Zealand, Australia, Fiji and other Pacific countries, as well as, inter alia, the European Union and the United Nations Development Programme, for their efforts in this regard. We believe that the people of Bougainville deserve a positive perspective for their future. Only then can sustainable peace be achieved.

Mr. Maquieira (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): Briefly, I wish to begin by congratulating you, Mr. President, on your assumption of the Council presidency and to express appreciation for the efforts of Ambassador Pleuger and his team last month.

I appreciate your convening this open meeting on the situation in Bougainville, Sir, which demonstrates the importance the United Nations attaches to the peace process under way. I also wish to express my appreciation to the Assistant Secretary-General of the Department of Political Affairs, Mr. Danilo Türk, for his useful and thorough briefing on the development of the aforementioned peace process.

Last December we expressed our satisfaction at the completion of Stage II of the weapons disposal process, which made it possible for section 14 of the national constitution, the new Organic Law on Peace-Building and the planned referendum to enter fully into force. My delegation can note today that not only have the difficulties been overcome, but also that the progress stemming from the Peace Agreement has been very significant politically for all parties involved. We thus welcome the significant progress made and congratulate the parties for their efforts in the search for a lasting peace.

We wish to highlight particularly two aspects of post-conflict reconstruction: the weapons disposal plan and the work for the approval of the future constitution. The developments of the past five months in both areas have been encouraging. We also encourage the Bougainville Constitutional Committee to continue its work on the third and final draft, which will enable completion of the constitutional process. We also appreciate the work carried out by the United Nations Observation Mission in Bougainville (UNOMB), in the Consultative Committee and in the constant search for dialogue and integration among the parties in conflict.

We must recognize the many remaining challenges facing Bougainville, among which one could stress the need to develop the proposed constitution and especially the preparation of elections, which, according to what Mr. Türk told us this morning, would be held at the end of this year, which we welcome.

We also wish to highlight that, in order for peace to be lasting, it is necessary to establish an efficient administration and a viable and self-sustaining economy. In the meantime, the relevant United Nations bodies must continue to closely coordinate their efforts in Bougainville with the donor community to establish and consolidate peace. In that context, we appreciate the work being done in the area by the United Nations Development Programme and other specialized agencies, Australia, New Zealand, the European Union, Japan and civil society.

Finally, we wish to recognize the work done by the Department of Political Affairs, particularly Ambassador Noel Sinclair. We believe it is very important that they continue to be linked to the peace process in Bougainville until its conclusion.

Ms. Menéndez (Spain) *(spoke in Spanish)*: We too congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Council. We also thank the representative of Germany for his work as President last month. We thank Mr. Danilo Türk for his briefing. We also thank Mr. Sinclair, the Representative of the Secretary-General, and his team, and we acknowledge their work.

It is encouraging to note that the weapons disposal plan is progressing apace and that 80 per cent of the weapons contained in accordance with the Bougainville Peace Agreement have been destroyed. The participation of former combatants and of communities in areas such as Panguna and southern Bougainville is welcome.

Progress has been made on the preparation of the new constitution. We hope that the Bougainville Constitutional Commission will conclude its work soon, with a view to convening the Constituent Assembly, and that the approaching deadline will be met. The same is true of the holding of free and democratic elections to elect an autonomous government in Bougainville.

The recent establishment of the Governance and Implementation Fund, with key support from Australia, is also decisive in making the elections and the establishment of an autonomous government a reality.

Nonetheless, the process must go much further. As the political process progresses, we must emphasize the rehabilitation and reintegration of ex-combatants and the restoration of infrastructure and community services. Here, the United Nations Development Programme has a fundamental role to play. We fully trust that peace and stability will be consolidated in Bougainville so that the peace process can be truly successful.

Mr. Motoc (Romania): First, we welcome you, Sir, and congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of May. I also take this opportunity to commend the performance of the German presidency during the month of April.

I join other members of the Council in thanking Assistant Secretary-General Danilo Türk, for his briefing on the latest developments in the activities of the United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville (UNOMB).

Romania is encouraged to note the steady progress in the implementation of the peace process in Bougainville, with the effective contribution of the small, follow-on United Nations Mission. We welcome in particular the advance towards the destruction of contained weapons, and the good prospect that the entire process will be completed soon.

Good news is also related to talks between the national Government and Bougainville leaders on the finalization of the third draft of the Bougainville constitution. We encourage the parties to proceed in a timely manner with the approval of the constitution, which will mark an important step towards autonomy. We are confident that the parties will soon take a decision on the timing of elections for an autonomous government, and will make the necessary preparations in that regard, with the support of the United Nations Mission.

We further hope that progress in the political process will be followed by progress in the economic field and improvement in the living standards of the population. In our view, the transition towards an autonomous Bougainville should be synonymous with the transition towards a prosperous and stable Bougainville.

Finally, I wish to express appreciation for all the efforts undertaken by the Government of Papua New Guinea and by the Bougainville parties in the peace process. All the positive developments achieved so far are evidence of the increased capacity of the people of Papua New Guinea and Bougainville to assume full ownership of the peace process and move forward towards political normalization and economic development.

Here, I would also like to commend the role played by other countries in the region, as well as by United Nations specialized agencies and international donors in supporting the peace process and achieving good progress in Bougainville.

Mr. Sardenberg (Brazil): I take this opportunity to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of May. In addition, I extend our compliments to Ambassador Gunter Pleuger and his team for having successfully conducted our work throughout a very demanding programme during the month of April. I also thank Mr. Danilo Türk for presenting us with a

highly informative update on the situation in Bougainville.

Brazil welcomes the recent developments in the implementation of the Bougainville Peace Agreement and fully supports the efforts of the United Nations to help the parties move forward with the peace process. Brazil commends the leading role of the United Nations in facilitating the implementation of the weapons disposal plan and notes with satisfaction the destruction of approximately 83 per cent of the weapons collected under stage III of the plan.

Since all components of the peace process are closely linked in their implementation, we expect that progress in the implementation of the weapons disposal plan may increase confidence among the parties and advance the process of bringing the constitutional amendment and the Organic Law on Peace-Building in Bougainville into full operation.

Only the maintenance of the rule of law and the promotion of justice can bring about a true process of national reconciliation. In that regard, we welcome the steps taken to finalize arrangements to improve policing and access to courts, and the increasing availability of correctional services in Bougainville. Moreover, the international community must continue to give due priority to the need for reintegration of former combatants into civilian life.

We urge the parties to consolidate the advances obtained so far and to expedite their work on the third and final draft of the constitution, with a view to completing all stages of the constitutional process as soon as possible. We also hope that they overcome their differences and provide the conditions necessary for the preparation of free general elections in the island in the near future.

The fact that discussions related to post-conflict issues in Bougainville are gradually replacing security concerns should be seen as a sign of progress towards a self-sustaining peace and a transition to autonomy in Bougainville.

Brazil commends the Pacific Islands Forum for its efforts to overcome the conflict and to help maintain law and order in the region. As an important forum for political consultation and cooperation, its role in the conduct of the process should be acknowledged and praised. We believe that the Security Council should encourage regional cooperation and assistance, as regional partners are often more likely to conceive and promote solutions to common problems in line with their particular environment.

It is our view that the United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville (UNOMB) should continue to facilitate interaction and coordination among the people of Bougainville — including former combatants — the United Nations, the Government of Papua New Guinea and other major international stakeholders.

Brazil understands that a United Nations presence on the ground is essential to ensure stabilization. Nevertheless, the success of the implementation of the Peace Agreement relies, as always, on the will and commitment of the parties themselves.

Mr. Duclos (France) *(spoke in French)*: First, I thank the German delegation for its excellent work last month as President of the Council. I convey to you, Sir, our congratulations and best wishes for the Pakistani presidency this month. I also wish to thank Mr. Danilo Türk for his clear and comprehensive briefing.

What struck us in that account is the fact that things are now moving in the right direction. The establishment of autonomous institutions has been speeded up, the collection of weapons is to be completed soon and the Constitution should soon be adopted. That will be a decisive stage with respect to the elections, which could be held before the end of the year.

Admittedly, there are still concerns. I am thinking in particular of the security situation, which is still precarious. I would recall that the Bougainville police forces are still rather small and have not yet received sufficient training to cope with the situation. But it is undeniable that the overall development of the situation in Bougainville is satisfactory.

The question facing us today is, what will happen to the United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville after 30 June? It seems to us that it is still a little early to take a decision in that respect. We await with interest the report of the Secretariat fact-finding team that will visit in June. However, we believe that the international community should continue its efforts in three areas: first, support for the transition in Bougainville; secondly, preparations for elections; and thirdly, assistance for development.

I cannot conclude this brief statement without commending the work done by Ambassador Noel

Sinclair in heading the United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville and that of his successor, Mr. Stenbock.

Mr. Baja (Philippines): Let me reiterate, Sir, in this first open meeting of the Council for this month, our congratulations to you on your assumption of the presidency for this month, as well as to the German presidency for its excellent stewardship of the Council last month.

My delegation is also grateful to Assistant Secretary- General Danilo Türk for his comprehensive and informative briefing on the developments in the Bougainville peace process under the continued political presence of the United Nations through the United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville, and for the letter from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Papua New Guinea. It shows us the fruits of the efforts exerted by the parties in moving the peace process forward to establish a stable and self-sustaining autonomous Government in Bougainville.

We particularly welcome the encouraging results described in the report, particularly the progress that has been achieved in the implementation of the agreement to destroy the collected weapons; the simultaneous progress in the constitutional process that is being achieved as Papua New Guinea and Bougainville iron out remaining issues in finalizing the draft of the Constitution; the increasing delegation of powers and functions to the Bougainville Interim Provincial Government, particularly of policing functions; and the building of civil and political structures, particularly in the law and justice sector, in Bougainville.

The agreement reached by the Peace Process Consultative Committee to destroy all contained weapons as stage III of the weapons disposal plan shortly after the last open debate on this issue, held in this very Chamber, was indeed a very positive development. It acted as the catalyst to increase the momentum in the political and constitutional process. My delegation looks forward to the positive prospect of completion of all stages of the constitutional process before the end of next month.

A stable environment and the finalization of the constitutional process leading to the adoption of the Constitution will provide the conditions necessary to start preparations for the holding of the elections for an autonomous Government. Recent developments bring us ever closer to that goal.

In view of such developments, together with the practical rehabilitation programmes in the economic and social field being conducted by other United Nations agencies, the peace process is expected to further mature. These are additional building-blocks to further consolidate the peace process.

It is also important to acknowledge the vital contribution that the other countries in the region have provided, and are continuing to provide, to advance the peace process. This will be even more important in the days ahead to sustain the momentum for Bougainville's development towards a stable political future.

When the final chapter of the story of Bougainville has been written, it will be a tale of how dialogue and cooperation among all parties and stakeholders and the United Nations led to the success of the process there — a success which is now on the horizon. My delegation will support the measures that the United Nations will undertake to bring about the final realization of that success.

Mr. Zhang Yishan (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I should like to begin by congratulating you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Council this month. I am confident that, under your excellent leadership, the Security Council will successfully complete its work. I wish also to thank Ambassador Pleuger and the German delegation for the outstanding work they did during the German presidency last month. Let me also thank the Assistant Secretary-General, Mr. Türk, for his informative briefing on the latest developments in the Bougainville peace process. We appreciate the work done by the United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville (UNOMB).

Since the signing of the Bougainville Peace Agreement, major progress has been achieved in the Bougainville peace process, which is now at a crucial juncture. The parties to the Peace Agreement have accomplished a great deal in terms of collecting and destroying weapons, and the process will soon be completed.

The Bougainville Constitution has already reached the phase of final consultations and drafting and will soon be submitted to the Government of Papua New Guinea for approval. These positive developments are very encouraging.

China appreciates the political goodwill demonstrated by the Government of Papua New Guinea and by other parties to the Bougainville peace process. We hope that all parties will continue their efforts fully to implement the Peace Agreement and to achieve, as soon as possible, lasting peace and stability in Bougainville.

We support UNOMB's continued monitoring and implementation of the Peace Agreement with a view to ensuring the success of the Bougainville peace process. We also appeal to the United Nations agencies concerned and to donor countries to provide assistance in the framework of the post-conflict reconstruction of Bougainville and to help the local authorities in the area of capacity-building and accelerate the reintegration of ex-combatants.

Mr. Gaspar Martins (Angola): I join previous speakers in congratulating you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council and also in congratulating Ambassador Gunter Pleuger and the German delegation for their excellent work during their presidency of the Council during the very busy month of April.

I should like also to express appreciation to Mr. Danilo Türk for his comprehensive presentation, for the progress achieved in the Bougainville peace process and for the good prospects for tackling the challenges ahead.

My delegation welcomes the progress achieved in the three crucial areas of the Bougainville peace process: the disposal of weapons, the constitutional process and the future political status of the Bougainville islands. We noted with satisfaction that the third stage of the weapons disposal plan is moving forward satisfactorily, and we hope that this process can be concluded by the end of June, thereby ensuring a Bougainville free of weapons and the sustainability of the peace process.

The delegation of police functions and powers pursuant to the Bougainville Peace Agreement, the strengthening of the law and justice sector and public administration, and the progress made in the negotiation of a draft constitution for the autonomous Bougainville Government are remarkable achievements to be credited to the people of Papua New Guinea and to the Bougainvilleans. While the progress attained is encouraging, the successful implementation of the Bougainville Peace Agreement will require further efforts to conclude the constitutional process and to create a level of security conducive to the holding of elections. In this regard, we commend the efforts deployed by the Government of Papua New Guinea and its commitment to implementing the Bougainville Peace Agreement.

At this crucial stage of the peace process, economic and social development is among the priorities for the achievement of a lasting and sustainable peace. We encourage the donor community to assist Bougainville in creating the needed infrastructure and opportunities for economic recovery and development in order to support autonomy and strengthen peace and prosperity for all. The role played by the international community, and particularly by the neighbouring countries, in providing financial and technical support for post-conflict peace-building and the development of Bougainville is to be commended.

In the present context, the United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville enjoys the best political conditions for continuing to assist the Government of Papua New Guinea and Bougainville to fully implement the Peace Agreement, to hold elections and to achieve the ultimate goal of the establishment of an autonomous Government in Bougainville. My delegation is confident that the United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville will continue to work closely with the United Nations Development Programme and other United Nations bodies to advance the peace-building process in Bougainville.

Mr. Adechi (Benin) (*spoke in French*): Like preceding speakers, I congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council.

I should also like to thank Ambassador Gunter Pleuger and his team for the excellent work done last month. I further thank Assistant Secretary-General Danilo Türk for his presentation and for his very useful description of the situation in Bougainville.

We welcome the progress made in the peace process, in the military sphere and in the political dialogue. We welcome the efforts of the parties, particularly the Government of Papua New Guinea, to achieve the compromises essential to reaching the concrete results that have just been described to us. Those efforts must be relentlessly pursued in order to bring the peace and normalization process to a successful conclusion with regard to the remaining challenges ahead in establishing lasting stability on the

island. Those challenges include, inter alia, making Bougainville a weapon-free zone, finalizing the constitution in order to create a system of autonomy in Bougainville, and verifying the constitutionality of such autonomy as soon as possible. It is also necessary to resolve problems linked to the effective exercise of police powers by the provincial autonomous Government of Bougainville, including through the reinforcement of the staff and logistical capacities of the Bougainville police units and the establishment of the security conditions necessary for the holding of regional elections in Bougainville, now scheduled for late 2004.

Given such challenges, we urge those former combatants who remain outside the peace process to renounce violence and immediately to join in the efforts of the international community with a view to completing the peace process successfully.

We welcome all initiatives to consolidate the achievements made to date. The notification of imminent consultations in the framework of the political process is a positive sign of which we take note. We support in particular the strengthening the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation or resettlement programme. In that regard, we are pleased to note that measures to promote the rehabilitation and reintegration of former combatants take account of the need to counter social exclusion so as to strengthen the island's social cohesion and to ensure sustainable development there. Similarly, we urge that steps be taken to promote post-conflict reconciliation. We thank the donor countries and international organizations that finance relevant programmes there.

Finally, we pay a well-deserved tribute to the United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville and its staff for their excellent work with the parties and neighbours of the subregion. The reasons offered by the Government of Papua New Guinea in support of the request to extend the mandate of the Mission until the end of 2004 are a testament to its credibility. We support that request, which reflects a well-defined exit strategy and leaves behind solid democratic institutions, as has often been recommended by the Council.

Mr. King (United Kingdom): Through you, Sir, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the German presidency for its work last month. Like others, we offer you best wishes for this month.

We are grateful for today's debate and for Mr. Türk's briefing. The United Kingdom congratulates all those in-country, from the region and others involved on the progress achieved so far in the peace process. This progress is a testament to the determination of the Bougainville parties to move the peace process forward, with the assistance of the reconfigured United Nations Mission led by Mr. Stenbock. Like others, we would like to take this opportunity to recognize also the work of his predecessor, Mr. Sinclair.

We welcome the fact that, as we have heard, a significant percentage of weapons have been destroyed under the weapons disposal plan; that several districts are now clear of weapons; that the work on the constitution is moving ahead; and that there has been progress in police training, even if that remains a priority. That said, it is clear from some recent incidents, such as the theft of sealed weapons, that continued determination and vigilance, as well as continued international support, will be required over the coming months to keep up the momentum in the face of any setbacks.

Finally, we welcome and support the aim of the Government and others in Papua New Guinea to work towards elections for a new Government in the time frame indicated by Mr. Türk.

Mr. Smirnov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We would like to welcome and congratulate you, Sir, on Pakistan's assumption of the presidency of the Security Council. We also thank Ambassador Pleuger and the German delegation for their successful handling of the Council's work in April.

We are grateful to Assistant Secretary-General Türk for the detailed information he has given us on developments in the situation in Bougainville and the work of the United Nations Observer Mission there.

The Russian delegation is pleased that the political process continues to move ahead in accordance with the Bougainville Peace Agreement. We welcome the commitment of the Government of Papua New Guinea and the Bougainville communities to continuing to demonstrate a firm political will and to comply with the principal agreements. We also appreciate their efforts to find agreed and mutually

acceptable solutions within the context of the peace process.

We are pleased that the two sides have completed work on the second draft of a constitution and are preparing a third and final draft. We hope that this new momentum in the Bougainville constitutional process will make it possible to complete work on the constitution by the end of next month, as scheduled.

We welcome the principled decision by the Bougainville communities to destroy all contained weapons, and we welcome too the progress made in that area. We believe that complete implementation of the programme to collect and destroy weapons held by former combatants is essential to strengthening peace and stability on the island.

It will be impossible to reach a lasting settlement unless the peace process includes all those who are now outside the process. We note the efforts by the Government, the Bougainville parties and the United Nations Observer Mission to ensure that the peace process is fully inclusive. We welcome the post-conflict peace-building support provided by the United Nations Development Programme, other United Nations agencies and the broad donor community. We are aware too that regional bodies have played a substantial role in the peace process and in fostering economic and social development in Bougainville.

The Russian delegation greatly appreciates the work being done by the United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville; we believe that its role in the peace process is extremely important. We are willing to participate constructively in Security Council discussions on any recommendation on the future of that mission that might be made following the forthcoming visit to Bougainville.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of Pakistan.

I thank Assistant Secretary-General Danilo Türk for his briefing. I also warmly welcome the participation in today's meeting of the Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea.

Pakistan appreciates the facilitating role that the United Nations, first through its Political Office and now through its Observer Mission in Bougainville, has played over the past few years. We acknowledge the work of Mr. Noel Sinclair and his successor. We also commend the efforts of all parties which have sought to implement a peaceful solution to the conflict in that territory. We appreciate in particular the courageous decisions and strong commitment to peace of the Government of Papua New Guinea. That has been crucial in the implementation of the Bougainville Peace Agreement. Pakistan urges the parties to keep up the momentum to complete the constitutional and electoral processes in a timely manner.

It is indeed heartening to hear Assistant Secretary-General Türk describe this as a success story for the international community. We urge the donor community to contribute generously, not only to the financing of the peace process but also to promoting long-term economic and social development to sustain peace.

The United Nations Political Office in Bougainville, prior to the expiry of its mandate, had overseen completion of stage II of the weapons disposal plan in July 2003. That was a crucial step in triggering the constitutional process which is currently under way. This also prepares the ground for holding elections for an autonomous government in Bougainville by the end of 2004, as well as for the eventual holding of a referendum in accordance with the provisions of the Lincoln and Arawa agreements.

The present mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville (UNOMB) provides for the completion of its outstanding tasks. Those tasks include the destruction of weapons under stage III of the weapons disposal plan, the monitoring of the constitutional process and facilitating talks between the parties and building confidence between them. There is also need to bring the faction of Francis Ona into the peace process. Completion of those important tasks needs to be supported by the international community and the Security Council.

Given the critical stage of the implementation of the peace process that lies ahead, Pakistan fully supports the extension of UNOMB's mandate for another year. We are confident that this will enhance the realization of the objectives of peace, to which both the parties in Bougainville and the Government of Papua New Guinea have committed themselves.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

The next speaker is the representative of Papua New Guinea, on whom I now call.

Mr. Aisi (Papua New Guinea): Thank you, Mr. President, for your warm welcome. Like previous speakers, I would like to congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for this month. I wish you and your Mission well. Through you, Sir, I would like also to thank and compliment Ambassador Pleuger and his Mission with respect to their able oversight of the work of the Council last month.

I thank Mr. Türk for his report and for his support over the past few years in the work we are doing. Those thanks go also to his staff.

Papua New Guinea sincerely appreciates the interest the United Nations takes in the Bougainville peace process and the practical support it provides through the United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville (UNOMB) and in other ways. On behalf of all of the parties, my delegation expresses our sincere thanks to the Council for its positive and creative response to Papua New Guinea's request, made on behalf of all of the parties late last year, for UNOMB to remain and continue supporting the Bougainville peace process on the ground.

In the past few months, the Bougainville peace process has passed a number of significant milestones on the way to self-sustaining peace. They include the withdrawal of the last in a series of neutral regional supports for the peace process: the Bougainville Transition Team, made up of unarmed civilians, women and men, from Australia, Fiji, New Zealand and Vanuatu.

At the end of February, the parties said farewell to a trusted, good friend who had worked very hard in support of the peace process and who had helped build mutual confidence between the parties over the previous five years. The departing Director of the United Nations Political Office in Bougainville, His Excellency Ambassador Noel Sinclair, left with the sincere admiration and thanks of people throughout Papua New Guinea for having met the diverse challenges of his assignment with commitment and distinction.

The parties were then pleased to receive UNOMB and its new Director, Mr. Tor Stenbock, whose prior service, both in other peace processes and in Bougainville, had already earned respect and a very warm welcome to his new appointment on all sides.

Before either of those two transitions had occurred, the peace process passed one of the most significant milestones on the way to lasting peace when the Peace Process Consultative Committee met in December and resolved that the guns contained under the agreed weapons disposal plan would be destroyed. The meeting was held within the time frame set in the plan, which forms part of the Bougainville Peace Agreement. The agreed outcome is clear: the guns must be rendered so they "cannot be used again, recovered, repaired, used for spare parts, or employed ... to make or support threats".

With UNOMB's inspiration and support, implementation has been truly impressive. Former combatants have displayed real determination in putting away and destroying their guns. By the last week of April, we estimate that more than 80 per cent — the figure of 83 per cent has been mentioned, and we will take that higher amount — of guns contained under the agreed weapons disposal plan had been destroyed. Guns which were removed from containers in 2002 continue to be recovered and then destroyed. Former combatants from the remaining "no-go zone" around Panguna are joining in. The prospects for completing the process in the next few weeks are strong.

That does not mean that Bougainville will be completely free of the presence and the threat of guns. But the main former combatant groups will have contained and destroyed their guns. The way will be clear for holding free and democratic elections for the autonomous Bougainville government, to be set up under the Bougainville Peace Agreement.

All of the parties involved in the Bougainville peace process continue to urge Francis Ona and his successors in the "no-go zone" around Panguna in central Bougainville to eliminate the psychological barriers, remove the remaining roadblocks and join in working for lasting peace by peaceful means.

Progress towards that objective is supported by the efforts being made to strengthen policing and other aspects of civil authority on the ground, including courts and correctional services. Those efforts include the delegation of significant police functions and powers from the national Government to Bougainville, as provided for in the Bougainville Peace Agreement.

Australia and New Zealand give valued financial and technical support for strengthening policing in

Bougainville, including the training of both additional general duties police and community auxiliary police. The recent establishment of the Governance and Implementation Fund provides a means by which they and other foreign aid donors can contribute to practical peace-building in Bougainville by helping to provide resources for implementation of a jointly developed work plan which is supported by the national Government and the Bougainville administration. Priorities include promoting awareness and building capacity, both nationally and in Bougainville, to make sure that the arrangements for Bougainville autonomy develop and operate as agreed.

Currently, consultations intended to promote a cooperative approach in drafting and implementing the proposed constitution for the autonomous Bougainville government are moving ahead. In fact, members of the bipartisan national committee led by the Minister for Inter-Government Relations, Sir Peter Barter, are in Bougainville this week to meet and exchange views with the Bougainville Constitutional Commission. The Commission is expected to complete its third and final draft of the proposed Bougainville constitution later this month. The Bougainville leadership has already agreed to arrangements for the Bougainville Constituent Assembly, which will convene to consider and adopt the draft constitution as soon as the Commission completes the final draft.

Consultations are open, smooth and productive. It is expected that by the middle of the year the final draft of the proposed Bougainville constitution will be ready for the National Executive Council to endorse its consistency with the national Constitution as amended by the laws implementing the Bougainville Peace Agreement.

In that context, let me again draw the Council's attention to the agreement, given the force of law in the Papua New Guinea Constitution, that, if there are differences over whether conditions are conducive to holding elections for the autonomous Bougainville government, they will be referred to UNOMB for resolution. The constitutional provisions, which may well be unique in the world, make it critical to the Bougainville peace process -- and for the sake of respect of good governance under our national Constitution — that UNOMB remain on the ground until the autonomous Bougainville government has been elected.

Until then, UNOMB also has an important role to play in continuing to chair the Peace Process Consultative Committee, the main body in which the parties meet to consult and cooperate in managing the Bougainville peace process until the autonomous Bougainville government has been elected. The autonomous Bougainville government will then assume responsibility as the legitimate representative of the people of Bougainville under the agreed arrangements. The establishment of the autonomous Bougainville government will mark a natural exit-point for UNOMB. That has been agreed and is understood by all parties.

While foreign aid donors will continue to provide technical and financial assistance, the parties will otherwise be directly and solely responsible from then on for future peace-building and governance under the Bougainville Peace Agreement.

Practical peace-building involves more than making and implementing political agreements. It also has very significant economic and social dimensions. As our Minister for Inter-Government Relations, Sir Peter Barter, has said, Bougainville needs to develop an economy capable of sustaining autonomy. It needs a society which sustains peace. In that respect, UNOMB continues to make an important contribution by promoting reconciliation.

The United Nations Development Programme and other United Nations specialized agencies, such as UNICEF, support practical peace-building in other important ways. Those include providing a wide range of opportunities — from training to providing seedlings — so that former combatants and communities can participate in, and benefit from, development on the basis of self-reliance. Papua New Guinea, on behalf of all parties, appreciates our overseas partners' continuing support and cooperation.

The Government is determined to take a proactive approach. That is why the Cabinet has decided to set up a new ministerial committee to plan and implement a vision for a Bougainville that remains at peace. In striving to define that vision of peace and mobilize resources for it, Papua New Guinea will continue to look to the United Nations for continued help and support. That includes a response from the Security Council when, at the appropriate time, Papua New Guinea makes a formal request for UNOMB to

continue until it fulfils its agreed responsibilities and the autonomous Bougainville government is elected.

The Secretariat mission that is expected to travel to Papua New Guinea in June to review the Bougainville peace process can help ensure free and democratic elections for the autonomous Bougainville government by being tasked and equipped to advise on what is required to ensure that UNOMB can do what its mandate requires.

Papua New Guinea is grateful for the continuing support of United Nations specialized agencies and other development cooperation partners. We encourage them to continue providing assistance for Bougainville and the rest of our country so that peace is secured and all of our people can enjoy the benefits of lasting peace, achieved, strengthened and maintained by peaceful means.

The President: The next speaker inscribed on my list is the representative of New Zealand. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. MacKay (New Zealand): Let me echo the congratulations and best wishes expressed to you, Sir, on your presidency, along with the thanks expressed to Ambassador Pleuger.

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum members represented at the United Nations: Australia, Fiji, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and my own country, New Zealand.

The Pacific Islands Forum group welcomes the continued progress towards peace and prosperity on Bougainville. We especially welcome the high level of weapons destruction and the number of large and important reconciliation ceremonies held recently, which is a very positive sign.

We wish to acknowledge the positive role the United Nations Observer Mission is playing in relation to this. I should like to thank Assistant Secretary-General Türk for his comments this morning and also to thank him and the staff of the Department of Political Affairs here in New York for their continued input and focus on Bougainville.

At the same time, members of our group remain conscious that there are still many weapons at large in the community, and we urge all parties to continue working to remove them.

This is a significant juncture for Bougainville. Important progress has been made thanks to the hard work of the Papua New Guinea Government and Bougainvillean representatives. We welcome, for example, the recent announcement by Sir Peter Barter of a Papua New Guinea Government ministerial committee to promote a proactive Government approach to Bougainville. More remains to be done, of course, particularly in the build-up to Bougainville's elections.

We encourage the Papua New Guinea Government and Bougainvillean leaders to move ahead with those preparations as soon as possible to build on the good faith shown by all parties in fostering progress in the peace process. Obviously, the international community remains willing to assist. We would support the extension of the United Nations Observer Mission for a limited time to assist with the preparations, as envisaged in the Bougainville Peace Agreement. I should like to thank those Council members who, in their statements this morning, have also expressed support for an extension of UNOMB's mandate. We hope that that will be readily agreed upon in the Council.

The Pacific Islands Forum group has maintained for some time that Bougainville is ready to move on from the formal peace process to a new focus on law and order and economic development. Recent progress has vindicated that confidence. Of course, the autonomy envisaged in the Bougainville Peace Agreement will be sustainable only with appropriate and affordable institutions, underpinned by economic growth.

It is important for Bougainvilleans, and the rest of Papua New Guinea, to know that the international community remains engaged in their future — again, a number of other Council members have made the same point this morning. Regional partners, including Australia and New Zealand, have been extensively involved for some time in economic and social development projects and in capacity-building. The joint Australia-New Zealand strategy for law and justice has included the training of new recruits for the autonomous Bougainville police force — 50 of whom

are expected to graduate and to be deployed to Bougainville at the end of June — as well as a range of coordination and infrastructure projects. From New Zealand's national perspective, we are especially pleased that, along with support for village courts, work has started on the third phase of the New Zealand community policing project.

The President: The next speaker inscribed on my list is the representative of Japan. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Haraguchi (Japan): Allow me, first of all, to express my appreciation for the comprehensive briefing provided by the Secretariat on the situation in Bougainville. Japan is very pleased to note that, in the period since the United Nations Political Office in Bougainville was reorganized into the United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville (UNOMB) last December, the Mission has continued its activities in an efficient and effective manner. Let me also take this opportunity to say that we highly appreciate the positive role that Ambassador Noel Sinclair played as the head of the United Nations Mission in Bougainville until the end of February this year.

The Bougainville peace process has entered its final and most critical stage, both politically and militarily. The current tasks are to formulate the Bougainville constitution and to collect and destroy weapons. We understand that the constitutional Commission is currently working on the constitution's final draft. It is our hope that the Commission will be able to finalize its work quickly and report to the Government of Papua New Guinea with a view to the Government's speedy endorsement of the draft Constitution.

Japan welcomes the report that, through the voluntary cooperation of the people of Bougainville, 80 per cent of collected weapons have already been destroyed. We are somewhat worried, however, about the report that a considerable number of weapons were recently stolen from a Government weapons repository. Although we understand that such a theft is an exceptional occurrence, we wish to express our hope that the weapons disposal work will be completed expeditiously so that there will be no recurrence of that kind of unfortunate incident.

My Government would also like to emphasize that, as the expiration date of the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville is fast approaching, it is essential for the people of Bougainville to exercise their ownership by accelerating the peace process. On that point, we have been pleased at how positively the people of Bougainville have responded to the work of weapons disposal. Japan, for its part, intends to continue to extend the bilateral assistance in the areas of education, public health and transportation infrastructure that it began to carry out last October. It is our hope that that bilateral assistance will improve daily life and strengthen the economy so that the people of Bougainville will be able to stand on their own feet.

The mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville is scheduled to expire at the end of June. For the sake of the consolidation of peace in Bougainville, we are fully aware of the necessity of a long-term commitment, including economic development assistance on the part of the international community. At the same time, however, Japan maintains the position that the mandate of any United Nations political mission should be limited to the period deemed necessary to complete the mission's assigned goals. We therefore strongly hope that, in the period between now and the end of June, UNOMB will further intensify its work so that it will be able to fulfil its mission as completely as possible in the time remaining.

The President: The next speaker inscribed on my list is the representative of Fiji. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Savua (Fiji): My delegation joins others in congratulating you, Sir, on assuming the Security Council presidency for May. We also thank your predecessor, Ambassador Pleuger.

Fiji aligns itself with the statement that was presented by New Zealand on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum.

The question of Bougainville is very close to Fiji, both in the context of the regional peace process and culturally. We are heartened by the steady progress of the Bougainville peace process, as it has a direct impact on the security of our region. A concern is the possibility that the problems of Bougainville, if not properly addressed, will spill over to neighbouring countries. Conversely, stability and the settlement of Bougainville's problems would augur well for its neighbours.

The Papua New Guinea Ministerial Committee on Bougainville was established to look beyond the current stage of the Bougainville peace process and to coordinate planning and implementation of the National Government's responsibilities in Bougainville for the medium and long term. That Papua New Guinea initiative complements the exit strategy of the United Nations in that it will continue the Bougainville peace process when the United Nations mandate finally ends, thus — to put it simply — adding value to the stability achieved. Until the exit date finally arrives, the role of the United Nations in promoting good governance and sustainable peace-building is absolutely essential.

The Bougainville authorities — under the able leadership of the Governor, the Honourable John Momis, and ably supported by the newly appointed Vice-President, James Tanis — are to be commended for their support of the "from the bottom up" approach of the peace process. That approach involves representation in the process from all sectors and proceeding through consultation and cooperation, based on public awareness and commitment by all parties to the orderly achievement of agreed outcomes with all deliberate speed.

The continued support of the United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville (UNOMB) for the peace process has been a steadying influence, and the firm direction proffered by its former Director, Ambassador Noel Sinclair, is much appreciated by all parties.

Fiji supports all efforts towards finding sustainable peace for our region. While security from conflict is a commendable first step, it has to be accompanied by plans and programmes that address the economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems afflicting the people. Issues such as water, sanitation, human settlements and the exploitation of women, youth and children are some of those that need to be properly considered. Here, we commend Australia and New Zealand for their efforts in the region towards that end.

We lend our support to the efforts of Papua New Guinea and to its request for United Nations assistance; we trust that the Security Council will give it its favourable consideration.

The President: I shall now give the floor to Mr. Danilo Türk to respond to some of the comments that have been made.

Mr. Türk: I would like to express appreciation for the comments made by the members of the Security Council who have expressed support for the work of the United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville. I would like to assure members that the content of this discussion will be conveyed to the Mission in all of its aspects, including those that relate to some of the recent difficulties. We will be continuing our efforts to complete the work of the Mission successfully.

I would also like to mention that today, when we find ourselves in a situation of successful continuation and when we are close to the completion of our work, we have to be aware that this work relates to a past conflict of considerable proportions: almost 15,000 people were reported to have been killed during the armed conflict in Bougainville years ago. That is the magnitude that we have to keep in mind. Every effort must be made to ensure the successful completion of the current stage of the peace process.

In that context, a particularly important aspect will be placing increasing emphasis on long-term assistance. You yourself, Mr. President, referred to that aspect, and so did many other members of the Security Council. We have taken careful note of that and will give further thought to it. We will continue to appreciate the work being done and assistance being offered by the countries in the region. There may be new ideas that we will be able to discuss with the Security Council in the coming period.

Obviously, the work is not yet done. We are very close to the successful completion of this process, but we have not completed it as yet, and the Security Council would be well advised to pay further attention in the future to the peace process in Bougainville.

The President: I thank the Assistant Secretary-General for those remarks.

There are no further speakers inscribed on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.4963

Security Council

Distr.: General
6 May 2004

Original: English

Official communiqué of the 4963rd (closed) meeting of the Security Council

Held in private at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 6 May 2004, at 4.30 p.m.

In accordance with rule 55 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the following communiqué was issued through the Secretary-General in place of a verbatim record:

"On 6 May 2004, the Security Council, pursuant to annex II, sections A and B of resolution 1353 (2001), held its 4963rd meeting in private with the troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET).

"The Security Council and the troop-contributing countries heard a briefing under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure by Mr. Hédi Annabi, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

"Representatives of the participating troop-contributing countries, Mr. Annabi, and members of the Council had a constructive exchange of views."

04-34140 (E) 060504

United Nations S/PV.4964

Security Council

Fifty-ninth year

Provisional

4964th meeting

Friday, 7 May 2004, 10.00 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Akram	(Pakistan)
Members:	Algeria	Mr. Baali
	Angola	Mr. Gaspar Martins
	Benin	Mr. Adechi
	Brazil	Mr. Sardenberg
	Chile	Mr. Maquieira
	China	Mr. Cheng Jingye
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Germany	Mr. Pleuger
	Philippines	Mr. Baja
	Romania	Mr. Motoc
	Russian Federation	Mr. Konuzin
	Spain	Mr. Menéndez
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Thomson
	United States of America	Mr. Cunningham

Agenda

Briefing by the Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

04-34166 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Briefing by the Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

The President: In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Solomon Passy, Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

On behalf of the Council, I extend a warm welcome to the Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria, Mr. Solomon Passy, and invite him to take a seat at the Council table.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by Mr. Solomon Passy, Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria. I have great pleasure now in giving him the floor.

Mr. Passy: It is a pleasure to be back in the Security Council.

As members will recall, Bulgaria was a non-permanent Council member in 2002 and 2003. That was a busy time for my country. But there has been no pause since then, as at the time when we rotated out of the Security Council we had already assumed the chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

I congratulate Pakistan on its assumption of the presidency of the Security Council and commend Germany for its successful leadership as President in April.

In my remarks today, I will focus on the role of the OSCE and what the chairmanship of the OSCE is engaged in nowadays. The low-key, soft-security nature of OSCE work rarely gains public attention, but that does not diminish its importance. The presence of the Chairman-in-Office in the Security Council is yet further proof of that.

As members know, since 1992, the OSCE — at the time, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) — has been a regional arrangement as described in Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter. Close and expanding cooperation with the United Nations, the European Union, NATO and other regional organizations is a priority for the Bulgarian chairmanship. With its specific expertise and with the unique activities that it implements from Vancouver to Vladivostok, the OSCE is a special partner of the United Nations.

The roots of our organization go back more than 30 years, to the CSCE and the Helsinki process, which meant so much to me and my generation as we struggled to win basic human rights in what were then communist countries. I believe that the OSCE has much to be proud of in its relatively short history. The CSCE was a catalyst for ending the cold war by keeping the focus on human rights, encouraging greater openness and transparency, stressing arms control and uniting Europe.

The OSCE, as the largest security organization in Europe, helped to end civil war in Tajikistan, constrained conflict in the Republic of Macedonia, Moldova and Georgia and defused inter-ethnic conflict in a number of States. With the United Nations, the OSCE continues to play a major role in building civil society in post-conflict Bosnia and Kosovo.

With its unique comprehensive approach to security — stressing human rights and economic development as well as political-military issues — the OSCE remains the primary instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation in its region. Our 18 OSCE field missions, especially in countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia, represent an invaluable on-the-ground presence which can help us deal more effectively with new threats to security.

Addressing and preventing the most salient threats to security are a high priority for the Bulgarian chairmanship as it builds on the efforts of its

predecessors. I would like especially to underline the role of my predecessor Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, the Chairman-in-Office in 2003.

Take, for example, counter-terrorism. The OSCE is looking at practical issues such as travel document security, the threat of man-portable shoulder-fired missiles to civilian aviation and improving ways of stopping the financing of terrorism. Work is being done to destroy ammunition stockpiles to eliminate the possibility of their ending up in the wrong hands. The OSCE works closely with the Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee. Indeed, in March the OSCE hosted, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the third special meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee with international, regional and subregional organizations.

We do not limit ourselves to worthy statements of intent. We bring together the practitioners — experts in airport security, for example, or people who design and produce passports — to enable them to share experiences and best practices. This is practical work which should make it harder for terrorists to threaten civilian aircraft with portable missiles or to cross international frontiers using forged passports and identity cards.

Furthermore, the OSCE is coordinating assistance on the ratification and implementation of 12 United Nations conventions and protocols on anti-terrorism. We are also trying to ensure that anti-terrorism legislation does not compromise human rights and are therefore working with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to assist OSCE States in drafting national anti-terrorism legislation. That is in line with Security Council resolution 1373 (2001).

The OSCE is working to control the spread of small arms and light weapons. Last December, we were proud to present the OSCE's Handbook of Best Practices on Small Arms and Light Weapons to Ambassador Kuniko Inoguchi of Japan, representing the United Nations. Today, many more people are at risk from illegally-held small arms and light weapons than from weapons of mass destruction. These weapons are easily concealed, are portable and have often been diverted from legal possession through illegal channels. In the wrong hands, they can be used by terrorists, criminal groups and sometimes, with terrifying effect, by children caught up in civil conflict as irregular forces. Too often, such small weapons can turn disagreements into violent conflicts with devastating consequences. The OSCE's regional work provides substantial input for the United Nations Programme of Action on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

Given the ever present threat from crime, policing is high on our agenda. The OSCE has quickly and effectively built up expertise in community policing, particularly in multi-ethnic societies. We have trained police in the Republic of Macedonia and in Kosovo, where recruits join the United Nations-led Kosovo Police Service. The OSCE is also implementing a police assistance programme in Kyrgyzstan and is formulating programmes to assist Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan in reforming police culture and operational effectiveness. In the future, more attention will also be paid to crime intelligence. We need to do more to break the link between crime and conflict.

Policing is a perfect OSCE issue — bringing together security and human rights — and we can play a lead role. The rule of law needs to be enforced in a way that is proportionate and professional and that has the respect of the community. When handled badly, policing can be part of the problem. When there is effective, democratically controlled policing, societies are more stable and more integrated. We should not wait until crises deteriorate to the point where peacekeeping is required. We should do more to strengthen policing within States where necessary, with the support of the international community.

Border management and security constitute another area to which the OSCE is paying greater attention. As Europe is transformed, borders are becoming more open. At the same time, that openness is being exploited by traffickers of drugs, people and weapons. There are also issues, such as pollution, development and water management, that defy borders and that therefore require regional cooperation. The challenge is to facilitate legitimate cross-border travel and commerce, protecting human rights and promoting human contacts, while ensuring a level of security that is commensurate with the threats posed by illegal cross-border activities. Those factors are being considered in the elaboration of an OSCE border management and security strategy. Those issues will also be the topic of a conference on borders to be held with the United Nations in Vienna in September.

The OSCE is paying increasing attention to fighting trafficking, particularly trafficking in human beings. I will shortly be appointing the first special representative on combating trafficking in human beings to increase the OSCE's capacities in that important work.

Last December, the Maastricht Ministerial Council adopted a new OSCE Strategy Document which provides recommendations and commitments for addressing economic and environmental threats to security and stability in the OSCE region. To implement the strategy, we are working closely with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, particularly when it comes to reviewing the implementation of commitments and the development of early warning mechanisms and indicators. In fact, an inter-secretariat task force has been created to that effect. We also work closely with the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme on our common Environment and Security Initiative, which is designed to assess key environmental issues relevant for security in South-Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus.

The human dimension remains at the heart of the OSCE's activities. Recent OSCE election-monitoring operations, in Georgia and the Republic of Macedonia for example, once again demonstrate the importance of expert, objective international observers. Election monitoring and assisting OSCE States with democratization are core activities of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. The OSCE's Representative on Freedom of the Media is a unique watchdog who monitors media freedom in the OSCE area. Free media are vital in open societies. With freedom comes responsibility — for example, in relation to hate speech on the Internet. Those are the types of contemporary issues that the OSCE is addressing.

Tolerance, non-discrimination and integration remain key themes for the OSCE. In Berlin recently we had a high-profile conference on anti-Semitism that provided a valuable opportunity to see what concrete steps can be taken to better address that scourge in the OSCE area. I would like to thank in particular the German Foreign Minister, Joschka Fischer, for supporting the organization of that conference. Our participating States agreed to compile, share and make public reliable statistics on incidents of anti-Semitism and other hate crimes, to review their legislation and to pay more attention to education on tolerance. We are working with, among others, the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

We are also implementing an Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti in the OSCE Area. Furthermore, we intend to evaluate what more can be done to combat violent manifestations of racism, xenophobia and discrimination. Those forces are still evident across the OSCE region, and they need to be contained. Also evident is the threat of extreme nationalism and inter-ethnic conflict. Here, the High Commissioner on National Minorities continues to play a discreet and valuable role. Increasingly, his work involves projects, including some carried out in cooperation with United Nations agencies.

In cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, among others, we are paying attention to education and its important role in building tolerance and inter-cultural understanding.

The OSCE and the United Nations work well together in the field. In Kosovo, the OSCE is an integral part of the structure of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). Immediately after the recent flare-up of violence, on 22 March, I and the Secretary General of NATO, Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, visited Pristina, thus demonstrating the determination to take the most effective measures possible in restoring order and normal life in the province. We expressed our full support for UNMIK and KFOR.

The Bulgarian chairmanship has no doubts — and made it clear to the parties — that the implementation of the international community's "standards before status" policy with regard to Kosovo should be strictly followed. That policy was reconfirmed during the open meeting of the Security Council held on 13 April and in the statement of the President of the Council on Kosovo issued on 30 April 2004 (S/PRST/2004/13). The Provisional Institutions of Self-Government should honour their commitments and "ensure that acts of violence and threats are not repeated". Multi-ethnicity and reconciliation should be rebuilt throughout Kosovo in an urgent manner.

On 23 March in Belgrade, I discussed with Government representatives the events in Kosovo and the situation in Serbia and Montenegro. In my

meetings, I stated that the international community highly appreciated the Government's wise approach to the developments in Kosovo and its prompt reaction to the unrest in Belgrade, Nis and other places.

The recent violence in Kosovo has shown once again that the international community — most notably the United Nations, NATO, the European Union (EU) and the OSCE — must act in concert so that the progress there can be maintained and can become truly sustainable.

On 13 and 14 April 2004, a regular regional meeting of the heads of OSCE missions in the countries of the western Balkans was held in Sofia. The meeting was devoted to considering how to better streamline the functioning of the OSCE field presences in the countries of the western Balkans. The situation in Kosovo, the fight against terrorism and illegal trafficking, the strengthening of border control, refugee returns, education and the training of young people were high on the meeting's agenda. Particular attention was devoted to problems related to education and the media.

Developments in Georgia have brought into sharper focus the relations between the United Nations and the OSCE in that country. The OSCE supports the efforts of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia to bring about a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia. The OSCE stands ready to help with opening the Ghali branch of the United Nations Human Rights Office in Sukhumi. In South Ossetia, the OSCE works closely with the United Nations Development Programme and with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the implementation of rehabilitation and repatriation projects within the framework of an EU grant to the OSCE.

Given the latest developments in Ajara, I congratulated President Saakashvili, the people of Georgia and the Government on achieving a peaceful settlement of the situation in Ajara. The Bulgarian chairmanship will continue to assist vigorously in strengthening democratic institutions in Georgia for the benefit of all citizens. I am pleased to note the constructive role played by the Russian Federation — particularly by Igor Ivanov — in settling the crisis situation. We stress the importance of restoring Georgia's territorial integrity by peaceful means as a crucial prerequisite for the country's democratization and prosperity, as well as for the stability of the southern Caucasus. We hope that the peaceful resolution of the crisis in Ajara will stimulate new efforts to resolve the conflicts in South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

Following up on its support for democratic elections, the OSCE is committed to working with the Georgian Government to continue the process of democratic reform and to maintain the country's territorial integrity by peaceful means. After my visit to Georgia, I also visited Armenia and Azerbaijan, where — as the Council is aware — the OSCE has been working with the parties to seek a resolution of the Nagorny Karabakh conflict. As I said at the time, the OSCE cannot perform miracles. It is up to the parties themselves to find the necessary courage and to realize that they share an interest in long-term peace and stability. However, the OSCE is committed to providing further suggestions and to facilitating a substantial dialogue aimed at bringing about mutually beneficial results. The longer the conflict persists, the more complex it becomes; here, time is no one's friend.

As Western and Central Europe have demonstrated, most recently by EU enlargement, regional cooperation can be a catalyst for confidence-building, good-neighbourly relations and prosperity. That is a message that I spread to my colleagues in South-Eastern Europe, and it is a point that I have raised in visits to the Caucasus and to Central Asia.

In that respect, I believe that Central Asia's security and Afghanistan's future are closely interlinked. In April, after visiting all five Central Asian republics, I flew to Kabul for meetings with President Karzai and Foreign Minister Abdullah. The OSCE has plenty of experience to share on issues relevant to the future of a stable Afghanistan. I believe that the OSCE and the United Nations can work more closely with the States in the region to promote regional security, stability and cooperation.

The OSCE is active in a wide range of areas, and we have good working relations with the United Nations. I believe that we can do even more. The OSCE will continue to cooperate with major international players — the EU, NATO and the United Nations — with the aim of improving their ability to respond quickly and effectively in addressing major contemporary challenges.

There is more room for sharing the OSCE's experience with other parts of the world, particularly in areas adjacent to our region. OSCE institutions and commitments may be inspirational to others who, like us, are searching for ways to prevent conflict, improve bilateral and regional relations and live in secure, pluralistic and lawful societies. That has been the OSCE's aim for the past 30 years. And while the world has changed since the cold war and the Helsinki Final Act, we still face threats and challenges to security between and within States. That is why the OSCE continues to adapt and to work to build security through cooperation.

The President: I thank Mr. Solomon Passy for his briefing and for the kind words he addressed to me.

Mr. Cunningham (United States of America): I want to thank Mr. Passy for joining us today and for giving us that overview of the activities of the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). I want to commend him also for his effective and active chairmanship of that important, if not widely understood, organization, an organization that I spent some part of my career working with.

I am glad to note in his statement the references to strong United Nations-OSCE cooperation. We think that is very important and welcome. In particular, of the items that he raised, I think the OSCE conference on anti-Semitism that was just held and the intention to nominate a representative for trafficking in persons are very welcome initiatives.

Mr. Passy spoke about developing an OSCE border management and security strategy and about a meeting that the OSCE is organizing in Vienna in September on that subject. I understand that the United Nations will be involved in the event as well, as will other organizations. What sort of outcome is Mr. Passy hoping for or anticipating from that session, and what will future activities be?

Mr. Pleuger (Germany): I should like to thank Mr. Passy for his interesting and very comprehensive briefing. We feel that the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) plays an important role in the field of security and cooperation in Europe and in adjacent regions, not only as a forum for consultation, but also in a concrete manner where it runs field operations. As Mr. Passy pointed out, there are significant areas of fruitful cooperation between the United Nations and the OSCE, specifically in the areas of conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation. Perhaps Mr. Passy could give us more details and more clarification about where he sees options for enhanced cooperation between the OSCE and the United Nations in the area of conflict prevention and early warning.

As for a second question, we believe that in the specific context of peacekeeping, cooperation and burden-sharing with regional arrangements and organizations make it easier for the United Nations to become active in many regions. That is, of course, true not only for the OSCE, but also, for example, for the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States. The regional organizations very often have in-depth knowledge of a conflict and of the specific problems of the area. We therefore support close cooperation between the OSCE and the United Nations and welcome every effort to increase the flow of information between the organizations, as we are witnessing today at this briefing. Therefore, we would be interested to hear from Mr. Passy where he sees areas for intensified cooperation between the two organizations in the near future.

Mr. Konuzin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): I too am glad to welcome Mr. Passy to this Council meeting. In Russia we value highly the close cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). From the Council agenda alone, we could refer to Tajikistan; Abkhazia, Georgia; Macedonia; and Bosnia and Herzegovina. We especially note the OSCE contribution to the implementation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) on Kosovo, Serbia and Montenegro. The OSCE mission in that province, along with the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), is playing an important role in preparing for local elections and in establishing the multi-ethnic Kosovo Police Service, as well as in the observance of human rights and the monitoring of local media.

The OSCE has provided us with very good reports, with preliminary analysis of the activities of the Kosovo print and electronic mass media during the broad-based, ethnically motivated violence that took place in Kosovo between 17 and 20 March. It is well known that, as many local mass media took a very negative stance, propaganda was broadcast. Anti-Serbian views were propagated and highly tendentious and inflammatory materials were distributed, which did

not promote tolerance, but rather encouraged ethnic cleansing in the province.

In that connection, I would like to hear what steps Mr. Passy intends to take within the OSCE Mission in Kosovo to prevent future repetition of extremist manifestations in the local media of Kosovo.

Mr. Motoc (Romania): My delegation is, of course, more than pleased to welcome to the Council the Chairman-in-Office of the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Foreign Minister Passy of Bulgaria, a friendly neighbour of Romania with which we share common institutional experiences in the assumption of international responsibilities. It seems that wherever Romania has exercised a mandate, Bulgaria has succeeded it, and that wherever Bulgaria has done so, Romania was next in line. I take the opportunity therefore to commend Bulgaria for activities and achievements of its chairmanship during the first four months of its mandate.

The rich presentation we heard at the beginning of our meeting shows eloquently the usefulness of periodic interaction between the universal Organization, and the Security Council in particular, and regional organizations, especially when their respective agendas intersect. Romania has made the relationship between global and regional organizations in stabilization processes a main thread of its mandate as an elected member of the Security Council. We truly hope to see Foreign Minister Passy, as OSCE Chairman-in-Office, join the high-level debate on this topic, which we plan to organize during our July presidency.

Romania held the chairmanship-in-office of the OSCE fairly recently — in 2001 — and had opportunities then to explore areas for improving the operational relationship on the ground between the United Nations and the OSCE. We now have a very good opportunity to put that institutional synergy to work even more effectively, especially in the western Balkans, since two neighbouring countries of the region — Bulgaria and Romania — are currently chairing, respectively, the OSCE and the South-East European Cooperation Process, which is the most representative subregional organization.

With a view to best profiting from the presence of our guest, I would like to ask him to kindly elaborate on the strategy and thoughts of the OSCE chairmanship-in-office with regard to dealing with so-called frozen conflicts, such as the ones he briefly referred to in the first part of his rich remarks — he mentioned Moldova and Georgia — since in that respect the United Nations and the OSCE, we think, can successfully share experiences and ideas.

Mr. De La Sablière (France) (*spoke in French*): I should like in turn to thank Mr. Passy for his presence and for his statement here today. We listened most attentively to his statement on the activities of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which will certainly prove of great use to us.

At a time when the Security Council and the United Nations are increasingly called upon to intervene to resolve regional conflicts that arise every day on the Council's agenda, I believe that we are seeking increasingly close cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations. I wish simply to join colleagues who have spoken before me in asking for Minister Passy's opinion about what activities could be undertaken to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and OSCE. We want to take advantage of his presence and experience to further enrich our thinking.

The President: In my own national capacity, I should like to add a couple of questions to those posed to Minister Passy.

Of course, there are a number of issues dealt with by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) that are coterminous with the issues dealt with in the Security Council and in other organizations to which Pakistan belongs, such as the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

In this context, I was very interested to note Mr. Passy's comment that OSCE and the United Nations can work more closely with States in the region bordering Afghanistan to promote regional security, stability and cooperation. I wonder whether OSCE has any specific thoughts on such cooperation, which would naturally be of great interest to us.

He also mentioned that OSCE has been working with the parties to seek a resolution on Nagorny Karabakh. I still remember how, 10 years ago when Pakistan was a member of this Council, we participated in the elaboration and adoption of several resolutions — 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993), all adopted during and after the conflict. Almost 10 years, I believe, have since elapsed; 12 May

will be the tenth anniversary of the ceasefire. We wonder how OSCE intends to pursue the proposals which have been made to seek a resolution of this conflict, in conformity with the resolutions of the Security Council, and whether any specific plans or proposals are on the table in this context.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

I call on Minister Passy to respond to any of our remarks.

Mr. Passy: I will try to respond. Thank you, Sir, for this really unique opportunity to respond to the Security Council members.

First, in response to Ambassador Cunningham's question on our conception of anti-trafficking and border controls, we can learn a lot from what is being done in the Balkans. We have great experience in this area and we can apply it in the future. The most important thing for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) is to learn from our past experience; we really have great experience that we can apply in new areas. Of course, everything depends, as all know, on funding, but the proper allocation of financial resources might help in that direction.

Our main focus in past years — financially speaking, looking through the budget of OSCE — was the Balkans and not so much the Caucasus or Central Asia. I believe that the time has come when we can think of reallocating attention. Now that the situation in the Balkans has relatively calmed down, we can reallocate attention to Central Asia and the Caucasus.

This is more or less the answer to Ambassador Pleuger's question on conflict prevention and what OSCE can do in that direction. With respect to early warning, what is very important in the area of Central Asia and the Caucasus is, first, to stimulate the countries into talking to each other. I have to confess that the dialogue between the countries in those two regions is broken. We need to encourage them to sit together and talk together. That is the first thing that we shall have to do.

The countries there have to address three specific groups of problems. The first represents the problems related to democratization. The second represents problems related to fighting terrorism. The third represents the problems related to internal tensions that they have to resolve or suppress. The leaderships of those countries do not always have the capacity to address those three groups of problems simultaneously. That is why we have to encourage them to share their experience and best practices with each other so that they can learn from each other. I think that will be one of the big challenges facing OSCE and the international community in the future. OSCE cannot do this alone, but it can stimulate.

As to OSCE and the United Nations in Afghanistan and Iraq, this is, I would say, one the best opportunities for visionary thinking and cooperation between OSCE and the United Nations. OSCE can help a lot and bring its expertise to bear in both of those countries. We have expertise in monitoring elections; we have expertise in police training; we have expertise in building democratic institutions. All of these elements are desperately needed both in Afghanistan and Iraq and we are ready to respond to a request by the United Nations to serve, if it so wishes.

That is why I would suggest that, in a future resolution on Iraq, the Security Council consider the possibility of specially mentioning a future role for OSCE, along with other international organizations. That is, of course, up to the Council to decide. Moreover, speaking of future resolutions on Iraq, I would draw the Council's attention to the possibility of inviting other regional organizations to support the building of democracy there. In particular, I mean such organizations as the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the League of Arab States or the Gulf States. We should not limit the activities of the international community only to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), OSCE, the European Union and so on. We need the organizations that involve Arab and Islamic countries also to be taken on board and involved in this very important process.

In response to Ambassador Konuzin of the Russian Federation, as he certainly knows, what happens in Kosovo is of immediate concern not only to me, as Chairman-in-Office, but also to me in my national capacity. The distance between the border of Bulgaria and the border of Kosovo is only 60 kilometers, so any turbulence in Kosovo immediately reflects at home. We hear it. That is why we reacted immediately and, after the violence in Kosovo, the Secretary General of NATO, Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, and I agreed on a joint visit. We visited the region and we very strongly condemned all acts of violence.

OSCE is working in Kosovo under the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo, and Harri Holkeri is the person who is giving the ultimate guidance. That is why I would not restrict our attention only to media, as you have asked. That is very important, but we should not restrict ourselves only to media. We should address all forms of violence and the inspirations for violence.

We talked to the Kosovo leaders, who have — or are supposed to have — some influence on their respective media. The Secretary General of NATO and I told them clearly that no one should benefit and no one will be allowed to benefit from the violence in the region.

In response to Ambassador Motoc, my dear friend, colleague and neighbour from Romania — we still remember Romania's great chairmanship of the OSCE in 2001 — as far as Moldova is concerned, we are sparing no effort in encouraging the sides to work together. We are inviting the three-sided and five-sided formats, but we cannot do more than what the two sides that are directly involved are ready to do. We shall spare no effort in encouraging them. I would like to address to the members of the Security Council to focus as countries, to encourage the sides in the conflict to act appropriately.

Also, I have very recent information concerning Kosovo. There is a report on the role of the media by my newly appointed representative, Mr. Haraszti. We needed such a person to do the job, and obviously he is starting to do his job.

Regarding the remarks of Ambassador Jean-Marc de La Sablière of France, I already spoke of the cooperation between the United Nations and the OSCE. I would just mention that we need more encouragement from the Security Council. Just ask us to do the job and we are ready to do the job.

The OSCE is, in one respect, a much more difficult organization that the Security Council. I had experience in the Security Council during the past two years. Here there are only five countries that can veto a resolution. In my case, it is much more difficult. There are 55 countries that can exercise the veto. When I visited President Karzai of Afghanistan, and I told him those are the regulations — any single country can veto my proposal — he told me, "Oh, that is like the Loya Jirga." I responded, "Mr. President, OSCE is my Loya Jirga."

If we have the encouragement, support and leadership of the Security Council, we will have a much more effective organization, because, if you can agree between yourselves here, I can promise that your agreement here will be passed in the OSCE.

Finally, our Chairman mentioned Nagorny Karabakh. I visited Nagorny Karabakh and had the chance to speak to all parties to the conflict on the Azari side and the Armenian side. My general conclusion is that we have to encourage them to talk to each other more. We should tell both sides that time is not everybody's ally. My impression is that there is a misunderstanding that time is everybody's ally. On the contrary, it is everybody's enemy. The more we postpone the solution to the conflict, the more painful the solution will be.

I would especially like to mention here, to the Security Council, that after our visit to Azerbaijan and our talk with President Aliyev, he was kind enough to release 129 prisoners. He told me that he wanted to prove that he wanted his country to democratize. On the very next day he offered very real proof that he meant what he said.

Those are my brief comments and responses to your questions. If the Council would permit me now, I would not like to miss this extraordinary opportunity to touch upon one very painful question, which I would like to address in my national capacity.

We have six Bulgarian doctors who were caught up in Libya, in jail, almost six years ago. Only yesterday five of them were sentenced to death.

Bulgaria was a co-sponsor of the Security Council resolution lifting the sanctions on Libya, and we believe that this was the right thing to do. Now I believe we will all have to help Libya to resolve this painful question, because, since those death penalties, this issue has become even more difficult for Libya than for Bulgaria. I just wanted to inform the Council that all of us will have to help in order for that humanitarian case to be resolved.

The President: I thank His Excellency Mr. Solomon Passy for his responses to the questions and comments made by Council members, and for his participation in the Security Council.

There are no more speakers on my list.

The meeting was adjourned at 11.10 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.4965

Security Council

Fifty-ninth year

Provisional

4965th meeting

Monday, 10 May 2004, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Akram	(Pakistan)
Members:	Algeria	Mr. Baali
	Angola	Mr. Lucas
	Benin	Mr. Adechi
	Brazil	Mr. Sardenberg
	Chile	Mr. Muñoz
	China	Mr. Wang Guangya
	France	Mr. Duclos
	Germany	Mr. Pleuger
	Philippines	Mr. Baja
	Romania	Mr. Motoc
	Russian Federation	Mr. Konuzin
	Spain	Mr. Arias
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Thomson
	United States of America	Mr. Holliday

Agenda

The situation in Timor-Leste

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (S/2004/333)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

04-34306 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Expression of condolences

The President: At the outset of this meeting, I should like, on behalf of the Security Council, to express our outrage at the terrorist attack that occurred on Sunday in Grozny, the capital of Chechnya in the Russian Federation, which killed President Akhmad Kadyrov and others and wounded many more. The Council condemns that act of terrorism in the strongest possible terms. The members of the Council express their sympathy and condolences to the victims and their families and to the Government of the Russian Federation. On behalf of the Council, I should like to request the representative of the Russian Federation to convey those sentiments to his Government and people.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Timor-Leste

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (S/2004/333)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Australia, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Singapore and Timor-Leste in which they request to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the discussion without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Ms. Pessoa Pinto (Timor-Leste) took a seat at the Council table; the representatives of the other aforementioned countries took the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President: On behalf of the Council, I extend a warm welcome to Ms. Ana Pessoa Pinto, Senior Minister and Minister in the Presidency of the Council of Ministers.

In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, and in the absence of objection, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Kamalesh Sharma, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Timor-Leste and Head of Mission.

If there is no objection, it is so decided.

I invite Mr. Kamalesh Sharma to take a seat at the Council table.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2004/333, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by Mr. Kamalesh Sharma, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Timor-Leste and Head of Mission.

Before giving him the floor, I wish to welcome the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Sharma, to the Security Council, where, as we all know, he has many friends.

Special Representative of the Secretary-General Sharma has effectively overseen and managed a complex operation that has adjusted and adapted responsively to the changing situations on the ground and has successfully launched important peacekeeping innovations such as the United Nations executive role in policing and the provision of civilian advisers to the Government. Here in New York, the Security Council has benefited from an excellent flow of information and analyses from his office that has allowed us to follow closely developments within Timor-Leste and to make decisions as required.

It is a pleasure to receive Mr. Kamalesh Sharma within this Chamber, which is tempered only by our regret that, as we understand, this will be our last opportunity to welcome him in this capacity.

On behalf of the members of the Council, I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Kamalesh Sharma, for his contributions and to wish him every success in future.

I give the floor to Mr. Sharma.

Mr. Sharma: I wish to thank you, Sir, for your very kind words. I appreciate them very much. It is a pleasure for me that our consideration of this item is taking place under your presidency.

I have the honour, as you have said, Sir, to present my final statement as Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Timor-Leste before the Security Council. I would like at the outset to thank members of the Council, who have been throughout appreciative and encouraging of our efforts towards assisting in the stability and self-reliance of Timor-Leste. This has been a great support for the entire team of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET), whose contribution and commitment in implementing the Council's mandate I would also like to acknowledge here with deep appreciation. The contribution of some of them will carry on in the additional year of the consolidation phase, which proposal is before the Council, before the exceptional association of the United Nations with the newly independent State of Timor-Leste in the form of peacekeeping missions draws to a close. I am confident that, should the Council endorse the proposal, the team will show the necessary dedication during that phase and will give to my successor the support I have received.

It is the plain truth that a United Nations mission cannot show consistently positive results unless there is close, constructive and continuous consultation and exchange based on trust with the leadership of the country. My experience has been notable and heartening in this respect, and I would like to place on record my grateful appreciation to the Government of Timor-Leste for the cooperative and forward-looking orientation and the spirit of joint striving which characterized our efforts. They constitute, I believe, a model of collaboration. Most importantly, of course, my gratitude goes to President Xanana Gusmão, Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri, and President of the National Parliament Francisco Guterres "Lu-Olo" and Foreign Minister Ramos-Horta. Over two years, I maintained a pattern of weekly meetings with the Prime Minister and had very frequent meetings with the other leaders. They were at all times ready to receive me and offer their full cooperation and advice in furthering the mandate charged to us by the Council. In a complex and ambitious mandate, it is inevitable that there would be rough passages as well as smooth ones. We brought understanding to each other's tasks in negotiating the way ahead.

It is particularly appropriate that, as an exceptional gesture, we have Senior Minister Ana Pessoa participating in this meeting of the Council, which will be the last one under the current mandate. I have no doubt that the Council will profit greatly from the personal presence of Minister Ana Pessoa, and I would also like to thank her for the effort she has undertaken to participate in the meeting today.

I would like to acknowledge with satisfaction the fact that the engagement of peacekeeping missions in Timor-Leste is widely described as having been a successful one. I myself characterize the outcomes and result as encouraging. That is not because I have any reservations on the success of our engagement, but because we know from the experience of the last half century that for success to be embedded and durable, unremitting effort and belief in the highest values of democratic and participative governance have to be demonstrated over a long period. All too often, what had appeared a success story has turned sour. Success is a retrospective judgement that — when we look back after decades and take satisfaction at the fact of a foundation so solidly laid, and a positive and enlightened direction of policy based on the rule of law and principles of transparency and accountability so firmly adhered to — the national accomplishment can be regarded as irreversible and as a lasting achievement by the political class and the people.

To ensure that outcome, which can be obtained only after much tenacity and effort, the primary imperative in a new nation is the dedication of the leadership to building and respecting institutions that reflect those values. In the formative years of an independent nation, it is essential that the leadership pursue a vision — and advocate and advance principles in its political and administrative conduct and practices — which will bear the judgement of history and succeeding generations. The scrutiny and evaluation of the direction and example given by the first leaders of any nation never slackens, as their example has to stand the test of time.

The quality of governance and of the institutions of the State can be progressively built upon only if the foundations are strong. That is a responsibility of truly historic proportions which the first leaders carry on their shoulders, and it is appropriate that they should

already see their actions and contributions in that historical perspective and not be guided only by fleeting or convenient considerations of the moment. That entails care to safeguard the means of policy and not only the ends. I believe this is a test which the first leadership of Timor-Leste is equipped to discharge to the lasting benefit of present and succeeding generations.

While enlightened leadership is the leading ingredient in the social and political success of a State, it is equally true that — particularly in the context of a progressively interdependent world and the explosive rise in the expectations of all peoples — the quality as well as the empathy of the engagement of the outside world, as development partners, particularly by countries of the neighbourhood and the economically better-endowed partners, are equally crucial. We have to ensure the strength of supportive partnerships. It is hoped that the nascent State of Timor-Leste, burdened by the trauma of history and among the States with the highest levels of poverty and the most depressed social indicators in the world, will benefit from the understanding and supportiveness of the outside world, which will assist it on the path to stability, increasing prosperity and the enhancement of the quality of life and choices for its people. This is a challenge which we cannot fail to meet. No lasting political or social gain can accrue without economic growth and social development.

The main developments of interest in the preceding half year have been reflected in report before the Council (S/2004/333), and I can therefore — no doubt to everyone's relief — compress what I have to say on the various elements of the mandate pertaining to external and internal security and support for public administration.

The national police — the Policia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL) — now bears responsibility for policing in all 13 districts and for a vast majority of headquarter functions. As stated in the report, we are confident about transferring executive responsibility for policing to Timor-Leste at a minute past midnight on 19 May. The contribution of Police Commissioner Sandra Peisley has been my strength in the performance of the mandated task of maintaining law and order and developing the PNTL as an effective force. While the Council should be reasonably satisfied with the development of PNTL capacities so far, the creation of a professional, apolitical, accountable and responsive police service, with well-established traditions of integrity and a mindset of service to the community, will take longer. The recent approval by the Council of Ministers of an Organic Law on the PNTL, the Organic Law on the Ministry of Interior and a disciplinary code for the PNTL are the essential first steps in that direction. I remain convinced that the Government of Timor-Leste will ensure effective utilization of the mentoring capacities to be provided by the 157 police officers proposed during the consolidation phase of UNMISET, in conjunction with other long-term bilateral and multilateral programmes for police development.

The military component of UNMISET has continued to be downsized according to the revised schedule that was approved in Security Council resolution 1473 (2003). Its presence over the past two years of UNMISET has been a factor promoting stability and the consolidation of a still fragile peace. On this occasion, I would like to place on record my appreciation of the three Force Commanders, General Winai Phattiyakul, General Tan Huck Gim and General Khairuddin Mat Yusof. Their dedication to their task, their ability to motivate the UNMISET military component and their advice and support to me have also been a great strength.

At this time, I wish to draw the attention of the Council to the very useful and necessary work that the engineers in UNMISET's military component have been doing in maintaining the major arteries of the road system in Timor-Leste, which I have previously acknowledged. Without continued international support for that task, the capacity for rapid response to post-UNMISET security challenges would be rapidly degraded all over the country. It would also pose a host of challenges for continued economic development and would threaten fragmentation of essential social functions. Bilateral and multilateral assistance will play a crucial role in meeting that challenge.

The efforts of both Indonesia and Timor-Leste to find a solution to the transitional issues, particularly those related to refugees and the demarcation of the land border, have been detailed in the report before the Council. I would like to place on record my deep appreciation of the accessibility and the encouragement from the leadership of Indonesia which I have enjoyed in the pursuit of the task of assisting on those transitional issues, which are part of UNMISET's mandate. It is to be expected that not all aspects of a

developing bilateral relationship would be amenable to speedy resolution within a couple of years of the emergence of Timor-Leste as an independent State. However, I believe that considerable advances have been made in many directions, that structures of constructive cooperation have been created and employed and that the political signals at the highest levels from both States have been conducive to constructing a relationship of friendship, goodwill and cooperation, unburdened by history. We can look forward with high expectations to the future course of the relationship.

Reports — though unconfirmed — of criminal elements, many of them armed, both inside and outside Timor-Leste, continue to be received. However, Indonesia's commitment to controlling such elements is encouraging, as are the continuing efforts of Timor-Leste to develop the capabilities of its security agencies to deal with such criminal elements, including through the establishment of a Rapid Deployment Service of the PNTL, which will operate in rural border areas. UNMISET would continue to cooperate with the Government of Timor-Leste in building the capacities of the specialized units of the PNTL, including the training of the rapid deployment service during the consolidation phase.

Through its institution- and capacity-building activities, UNMISET has contributed significantly to the viability and political stability of the State institutions of Timor-Leste, including through mentoring and coaching Timorese counterparts, assistance in the preparation of legal frameworks, formalizing related rules and regulations and institutionalization of operational procedures.

The innovative and pioneering experiment sanctioned by Security Council resolution 1410 (2002) revealed that the requirements for human and institutional capacity development were far more demanding than originally envisaged, requiring the presence of most critically important advisor positions beyond May 2004. A robust exit strategy to ensure sustainability will be the major challenge during the consolidation phase of the mission. Likewise, the assistance provided through the serious crimes programme of UNMISET offers crucial reinforcement to the Council's commitment that perpetrators of such crimes shall be brought to justice. It also helps to strengthen Timorese capacities in the justice sector.

A healthy and functioning justice sector in Timor-Leste is crucial for the overall functioning of the democratic institutions and thus is fundamental in ensuring good governance. The recruitment of international judges to fill the current gaps would therefore be accorded priority attention. However, the sustainability of the justice sector can be achieved only through the direct support of bilateral and multilateral development partners. This must be not only an immediate priority, but also a much needed long-term strategy.

Social peace, security and stability are, of course, a prerequisite for sustainable gains in areas of governance and economic development. Enhanced transparency and accountability in governance provide a healthy tone to the political culture and also contribute to better and more effective utilization of external assistance. Through the Provedor, or ombudsman, Act and workshops in this area, in addition to the office of the Inspector General, the Government has signalled its commitment to these principles. Similarly, enhanced cooperation between the wider United Nations system of agencies, funds and programmes and international financial institutions, as well as bilateral actors and civil society, in support of national programmes would contribute towards a holistic approach. In that regard, I would like once again to acknowledge the sterling support given to me by Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Resident Coordinator Sukehiro Hasegawa.

Being acutely conscious of the need for a smooth downsizing of the Mission, we had established a committee in good time to ensure that all elements for a proper handover to the Government, or other applicable means of disposal of assets, were in place. Since I last addressed the Council in October 2003, considerable progress has been made in the orderly downsizing of the Mission. Planning for what would have been the final repatriation of the peacekeeping force (PKF), the United Nations police and the substantive elements of the civilian staff had reached an advanced stage before it was overtaken by the planning for the much smaller follow-on mission now proposed. Much of the earlier work, however, remains relevant. The permanent PKF presences in Suai and Oecussi were withdrawn, and United Nations and contingent-owned equipment assets in those locations

were largely recovered or donated to the Government of Timor-Leste.

In keeping with our policy of handing back to the Government fully functional facilities where this is possible, two United Nations-owned facilities in Suai — the former Sector West Headquarters and the PKF Forward Surgical Team hospital, complete with medical equipment — were donated to the Government in December 2003. The Government has to meet the challenge of meeting the operational requirements. During liquidation, environmental considerations have been respected.

The drawdown of United Nations police and the progressive handover of policing responsibility to the PNTL have been accompanied by the donation of United Nations-owned equipment in police stations. UNMISET continues to provide essential telephone services down to substation level, where Timor Telecom cannot provide this service, and provisionally full operation of the police VHF radio network. It appears that without some significant development in local capability, UNMISET will have little choice but to continue this support well into the period of the proposed follow-on mission.

I am pleased to report that the downsizing of the national staff has not caused us any appreciable difficulty, largely due to the efforts of the Division of Administration, particularly its Director, Philip Cooper, to improve their job skills and to accord recognition through certificates of the experience gained by them while employed by the United Nations. Training courses have been run in software programmes — Word, Excel, Access, Power Point — computer hardware, web design, language training in English and Portuguese, office administration, small business development, proposal writing, formal documentation and the establishment of cooperatives and microfinance.

These initiatives have been appreciated by the national staff. The return of the national staff's pension contributions within one month of the end of their contracts by the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund has also contributed positively to the morale of those staff. Expanding and new missions of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations have absorbed most of the international staff who have sought continued employment with the United Nations.

Before I conclude, let me express my deep thanks to the Secretariat, particularly Jean-Marie Guéhenno, Hédi Annabi, Julian Harston and the efficient desk officers assisting us in our work in the field, as well as their colleagues in other specialized units of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and other departments of the Secretariat. Their availability, guidance and unfailing support have left an indelible impression on me.

The President: Before opening the floor, I would like to say that, in accordance with the understanding reached among Council members, I would like to remind all speakers to limit their statements to no more than five minutes in order to enable the Council to carry out its work expeditiously. Delegations with longer statements are kindly requested to circulate a full text in writing and to deliver a condensed version when addressing the Council in this Chamber.

Mr. Konuzin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We are grateful to you, Sir, for expressing solidarity with Russia on behalf of the Security Council in connection with the terrorist attack on my country. I shall convey your words of sympathy to the Russian Federation and all the victims of the tragedy.

Our Organization was established immediately after a most cruel and devastating war that brought mankind untold grief. Millions upon millions died and my own country suffered enormous loss of life. Yesterday was 9 May, a day sacred to the citizens of Russia and all peoples of the Soviet Union. On the very anniversary of victory in the great war for the fatherland, when countries in the anti-Hitler coalition and all people of good will commemorated the end of the Second World War, a monstrous terrorist act was committed in the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation. In Grozny, during the celebrations commemorating the crushing of fascism, a terrorist explosion killed the legally elected President of Chechnya, Akhmad Kadyrov. Others died and many, including children, were wounded.

This crime was committed at a time when the Chechen Republic was gradually intensifying its efforts to restore a peaceful way of life. Refugees were returning home, the economy was recovering and political activity was increasing. It was precisely that — the normalization of the situation in the Republic — that drew the fury of terrorists who are blinded by hatred for all mankind and who are doomed

to oblivion. Today, in every mosque in Chechnya, they are praying for the victims of this act of terrorism and cursing the murderers.

The bloody trail of terrorism can be seen throughout the world: Russia, the United States, Indonesia, Spain, Saudi Arabia and the Middle East. International terrorism, the black plague of the twenty-first century, can be countered only if we work together and form the united front of an international anti-terrorist coalition. Russia will participate in that struggle. Victory will be ours.

My delegation has prepared a draft presidential statement in connection with the terrorist attack in Grozny. May I ask you, Sir, to convene consultations following this meeting in order to consider it?

I now turn to the item on the Security Council's agenda today. We are grateful for the Secretary-General's report on Timor-Leste, containing detailed information on developments in that country. We believe that it accurately reflects both the achievements of and the main problems facing Timor-Leste. We agree with the report's conclusion concerning the need to extend the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET) beyond 20 May for an additional 12-month consolidation phase, in a reduced size and with a modified mandate. We support the Secretary-General's suggestions for the parameters of an extended UNMISET, including the new recommendation for the establishment of an international response unit of 125 gendarmerie.

We are grateful to Brazil for having prepared a draft resolution on the basis of the Secretary-General's recommendations and we are prepared to participate constructively towards its adoption.

We welcome the further stabilization in Timor-Leste and commend the Timor authorities on their success in developing the basic State institutions. We note the progress achieved in legislation with a view to the adoption of several important laws and regulations governing the activities of individual public bodies, determining procedures for local elections and regulating various aspects of social and political life in the country. We expect that Timor-Leste will soon adopt key laws on the national police and defence, which are essential to establishing a truly independent force to provide internal and external security for the country.

We welcome the establishment of the National Electoral Commission, the first test of which will be the preparation of local elections in the last quarter of this year. We share the view that external assistance will be necessary to the successful holding of the elections and we urge the donor community to provide Timor-Leste with the support it needs for the preparation and convening of those elections.

We welcome the ongoing development of Timorese-Indonesian relations. The two countries have expressed their desire to establish genuine good-neighbourly and mutually beneficial relations, which provides grounds for hope that there will soon be a settlement of pending matters, including the important issue of demarcating and monitoring the common border. Timor-Leste's economic development will also benefit from positive movement in bilateral talks with Australia on developing and allocating underwater petroleum resources.

In conclusion, we thank Mr. Kamalesh Sharma, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for East Timor, and the entire UNMISET staff for their real contribution to a settlement on the island.

Mr. Lucas (Angola): At the outset, I want to convey the condolences of the Angolan delegation to the Russian Government and to the families of the victims of yesterday's terrorist bomb attack in Grozny, Chechnya.

We are grateful for the convening of this meeting on the situation in Timor-Leste. We welcome and thank Mr. Kamalesh Sharma, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for presenting the report on the activities of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET).

We welcome the participation in this meeting of the Security Council of Mrs. Ana Pessoa Pinto, Minister of State and Minister in the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of Timor-Leste. We also express our agreement with the statement that the representative of Brazil will deliver on behalf of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries.

We are gratified by the contents of the report portraying remarkable achievements by the Timorese people in building their country in such a short period of time. It is our belief that those achievements lay solid grounds for the further involvement and cooperation of the international community with

Timor-Leste. My delegation reiterates Angola's commitment to the objectives set by the Timorese people and by the international community of establishing a truly self-sufficient State based on the rule of law, on respect for human rights and on democratic values.

The Secretary-General's report mentions important steps recently taken by the Timorese Government towards the consolidation of the Timorese State. Taking into account their structural impact, we deem of great importance the steps taken in preparation for the first elections and the legislative reforms associated with it; the adoption of legislation for key public institutions, such as the Superior Council of Defence and Security, the Interior Ministry and the national police; the addressing of serious crimes committed in 1999; and the continued strengthening of the institutions of political and public administration. We are encouraged by the very positive nation-building developments in Timor-Leste at a moment when the country has reached a dramatic threshold and when, with every passing day, the Timorese are assuming further responsibilities in the conduct of their own affairs.

The political and institutional progress achieved by Timor-Leste over the past two years is impressive; it shows the great wisdom of the Timorese people and of its leadership. We note with appreciation the increased stability in the security situation in Timor-Leste. We fully share the Government's assessment of its limited ability to cope with internal and external security challenges. We further share the Secretary-General's conclusion, highlighted in his report (S/2004/333), that Timor needs more assistance from the international community in order to guarantee the consolidation and long-term sustainability of its administrative institutions, the rule of law and its territorial sovereignty.

The emerging institutions — principally the public administration, the justice sector and the national police — are still fragile. We think that Timor-Leste will need the continued support of the United Nations and of the international community at large. The continued presence of UNMISET gives confidence to the Timorese people and contributes to the maintenance of security and stability.

My delegation acknowledges that this is a crucial moment in the history of Timor, and that the international community should be prepared to sustain the efforts it has been deploying in favour of Timor-Leste for quite some time, and in so doing to ensure the best possible conditions for the sustainability of the peace-building process in Timor-Leste.

My delegation supports the recommendations set out in the report of the Secretary-General on the role, size and format of UNMISET and on key national support programmes. It is our belief that the revised multifunctional mandate of UNMISET, when fully implemented, will result in better functioning of national institutions, ensure the development of the rule of law, promote better security and stability and ensure a self-sustainable Timor-Leste. My delegation supports the extension of UNMISET's mandate for a further one-year consolidation phase and believes that decisions on the future presence of a United Nations mission should be taken in due time and in accordance with circumstances on the ground.

The relations between Timor-Leste and its neighbours — particularly Indonesia and Australia — are an important factor in the situation in the country. We praise the commitment made by those two key countries to the future of Timor-Leste, the constructive dialogue they are undertaking on issues of mutual interest, in particular those concerning the demarcation and management of the common border. My delegation encourages bilateral donors to continue to provide timely and appropriate assistance for the consolidation of peace and the development of Timor-Leste.

In conclusion, we commend the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Timor-Leste, Mr. Kamalesh Sharma, and UNMISET for the role they have played, and we reiterate our confidence that the Timorese will build a stable, prosperous and democratic society.

Mr. Duclos (France) (*spoke in French*): I too want to thank Mr. Kamalesh Sharma for his briefing; we are sorry that he is leaving his post.

The Permanent Representative of Ireland will be making a statement on behalf of the European Union, with which my delegation fully associates itself.

Mr. President, you requested that we be as brief as possible, so I shall not repeat previous speakers' analysis, which reflected the fact that significant progress has been achieved in Timor-Leste and that that progress needs to be consolidated. Here, let me note that, in our view, very careful consideration must

be given to combating impunity for serious crimes committed in 1999.

We draw two conclusions from the analyses. First, France supports a one-year extension of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET), with a modified mandate and reductions in personnel. Secondly, in our view it is now very important that an UNMISET exit strategy succeed; we should try to define that exit strategy well in advance. It is important that the next resolution include a number of elements: setting a deadline for the withdrawal of the force; refocusing the mandate on assistance to the Timorese authorities to enable them to carry out reforms; a system for reviewing personnel levels at the end of the year; and strengthened coordination of the international community's action so as to ensure a smooth handover to transition and development partners, such as the relevant United Nations agencies, international financial institutions and bilateral partners.

Mr. Thomson (United Kingdom): At the outset, I should like to associate my delegation with the sadness that others have expressed at the loss of life in Grozny.

Turning to the item on our agenda, I would like particularly to welcome the presence here of Senior Minister Ana Pessoa Pinto. We look forward to hearing her views. I take the effort she has made to be here today not only as a gesture to acknowledge the new phase that the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET) is entering, but also as an acknowledgement of all that Kamalesh Sharma has achieved over his two years of close work with the Government and the people of Timor-Leste. We thank him for what he has done.

I would like also to associate my delegation with the statement to be made by Ireland on behalf of the European Union later in this debate.

We believe that the Secretary-General has made a compelling case for the extension of UNMISET's mandate for a further one-year consolidation phase. It is important to ensure that the investments of the international community and the achievements of the Timorese people and Government are not undermined. We look forward to engaging in negotiations this week on a draft resolution to extend UNMISET in a reduced form and with a modified mandate that reflects a coherent exit strategy. We welcome the fact that differences over the makeup of the security component of the follow-on mission appear now to have been resolved to the satisfaction of all concerned. We thank the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for its efforts in that regard.

The Secretary-General's report (S/2004/333) sets out clearly the areas where progress has been achieved and those where continued international support is required. I will not dwell on them, but it is clearly the case that a smooth buildup in the governance capacity of East Timor is necessary for a smooth UNMISET drawdown. We welcome the strengthening of key public institutions, in particular through the passage of the Civil Service Act and the Organic Law on the Office of the Presidency, and we commend the positive steps that have been made in preparation for elections later this year, including the establishment of the National Electoral Commission and the finalizing of the legal framework under which the elections can take place.

Areas where the United Kingdom is particularly keen to see further progress include the establishment of necessary legal and institutional frameworks such as a defence act and prison legislation, clarification of the roles and responsibilities of the Timorese police and armed forces, and improvement in the administration of justice.

Finally, we welcome the continued constructive cooperation between Indonesia and Timor-Leste. We hope that that will facilitate the early resolution of outstanding issues, including agreement on a land border and the provision of justice for those responsible for serious crimes in 1999. With respect to the latter point, it is important that the work of the Serious Crimes Unit should continue.

Mr. Baali (Algeria) (*spoke in French*): I should like at the outset to express my sincere condolences and sympathy to the Russian delegation following the horrible terrorist attack that claimed the lives of the President of the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation, Mr. Akhmad Kadyrov, and others.

Next, I would like to thank Ambassador Kamalesh Sharma for his excellent briefing on the situation in Timor-Leste and to congratulate him on the work that he and his team have accomplished in that country. Finally, I wish to welcome the presence of Ms. Ana Pessoa Pinto.

We have noted that, in recent months, Timor-Leste has made significant progress in the areas of

security and economic and social development, thanks to the efforts of the Government and the people of Timor-Leste, but also to the valuable assistance of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET). However, a number of challenges remain to be met to better ensure stability, democracy and justice and to strengthen internal and external security and border control. Those are major challenges to the peace-building process in the young republic of Timor-Leste, but we are confident that they will be met with success.

From that perspective, the elections to be organized in villages — the first elections in Timor-Leste — are a major test for the young republic. Important measures taken in preparation for those elections are timely and appropriate in that they will enable us to lay the groundwork for the electoral process in the country and will establish conditions for success for the first national elections. My delegation can only welcome that.

The development of Timor-Leste's relations with all its neighbours will benefit the young republic economically, but also from a political and security standpoint. In that regard, we welcome the continued improvement of the relations between Timor-Leste and Indonesia, which has been made possible by the far-sightedness of their leaders. We hope that the two parties will soon reach agreement on the demarcation of their land borders, given the importance of that issue for the security of both countries. The willingness of both parties to establish good-neighbourly relations enables us to hope that they will swiftly resolve pending issues, because we believe that an improvement in bilateral relations will contribute greatly to the consolidation of the stability and security of Timor-Leste.

Along the same lines, we hope that the negotiations between Timor-Leste and Australia on the question of the maritime border will move forward and that an agreement will soon be concluded, in view of that issue's importance for the exploitation of mineral resources in the Timor Sea, which will undoubtedly benefit the economy of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

As the report of the Secretary-General (S/2004/333) indicates, there have been delays with regard to the administration of justice and the training of the police. While responsibility for policing should be transferred to the national police of Timor-Leste on 19 May — and we welcome that — we believe that continued support for the training of the national police is necessary, since the establishment of public administration and the strengthening of internal and external security capacities are fundamental elements for Timor-Leste's viability and political stability. UNMISET's work in training the Timorese police has had very positive results; we therefore believe that it should continue during the consolidation phase.

The maintenance of external security also requires UNMISET's presence to follow up on developments in the security situation and to support demarcation activities. We feel that the Secretary-General's recommendations in that area are reasonable and deserve support.

Timor-Leste will continue to need financial support from the international community for some time. The support of United Nations funds and programmes, of international financial institutions and of multilateral and bilateral donors must be sustained and generous so that the country can attain the objectives of its national development plan.

Finally, we support the Secretary-General's recommendations concerning the extension of UNMISET's mandate for a one-year consolidation period.

Mr. Pleuger (Germany): Let me first address the Russian delegation in condemning the terrorist bomb attack in Grozny and in expressing our sympathy and our condolences to the Government of the Russian Federation and to the victims and the bereaved families.

My delegation is grateful for the comprehensive briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Timor-Leste, Ambassador Kamalesh Sharma, and for the report of the Secretary-General of 29 April on the situation in Timor-Leste (S/2004/333). In that connection, I would like to welcome the presence of Senior Minister Ana Pessoa Pinto as she participates in this Council meeting. I would also like to say that Germany aligns itself with the statement to be made later in this discussion by the representative of Ireland on behalf of the European Union.

Germany commends the tremendous progress achieved by the people and the Government of Timor-Leste and by the United Nations Mission of Support in

East Timor (UNMISET). The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Kamalesh Sharma, deserves our special tribute. We also welcome the excellent communication and goodwill that have characterized relations between Timor-Leste and Indonesia. Timor-Leste can rightly be described as a success story and as a true model for nation-building. Over the past five years, significant progress has been continuously achieved in all relevant areas.

Whereas the security situation has generally been calm and peaceful, certain deficits remain. The Timorese police unit — the Policia Nacional de Timor-Leste — continues to suffer from a number of institutional weaknesses. Reports of the presence of armed groups are still a matter of concern. Unfortunately, we must acknowledge that the development of indigenous Timorese security capabilities remains at an early stage. We must also acknowledge the concern of the Timorese Government that an early withdrawal of the international security presence could lead to a deterioration of the situation. It is important that, during the consolidation phase, UNMISET retain some residual security-related elements to support Timor-Leste's ability to maintain its security and stability. We must make sure that the progress achieved so far will not be lost. Germany therefore supports the recommendation of the Secretary-General to extend the mandate of UNMISET, including its military component.

The development of relations between Timor-Leste and Indonesia continues to benefit from the commitment to cooperation at the highest political level. However, as the report of the Secretary-General points out, some problems remain. We therefore call upon both parties to finalize the agreement on the border line, to conclude an arrangement for management of the border — including in the areas of cooperation and security and the regulation of economic activity — and to solve other outstanding issues, such as bringing to justice those responsible for serious crimes committed in 1999 and the return of refugees. Despite considerable efforts, 300 unresolved cases of Timorese children separated from their families in 1999 still demand attention. Progress in those areas will be crucial for the internal and external security of Timor-Leste.

National reconciliation is a key factor in successful nation-building. We therefore commend the work of UNMISET also with regard to the other two areas of its mandate: first, support for the public administration and justice system, and for justice in the area of serious crimes; and, secondly, support for the development of law enforcement.

We support the recommendation of the Secretary-General to continue this Mission. The envisaged configuration of 58 civilian advisers could help Timor-Leste cross a critical threshold of self-sufficiency in terms of developing key skills and capabilities while helping to ensure that essential tasks are discharged.

The international community's peacekeeping activities in Timor-Leste have provided a window of opportunity for progress. The extraordinary achievements that have been made offer an occasion for pride for the Timorese people and for the international community. We call on the Governments of Timor-Leste and of Indonesia to take the opportunity to resolve the outstanding issues before the final termination of UNMISET. We highly support and recommend the assistance of UNMISET in this endeavour upon request from both parties.

There is good reason to believe that further joint efforts will enable the Timorese people to achieve the objective of a truly self-sufficient State, which they have pursued with such determination. The international community should stay committed to achieving that goal.

Mr. Wang Guangya (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): We would like to express our strongest condemnation of the terrorist attack that took place on 9 May in Grozny, Chechnya, in the Russian Federation. We convey our condolences to the bereaved families of the victims and express our sympathy to the wounded.

I should like to thank the Secretary-General for his report on the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET). I wish also to welcome the supplementary briefing by Mr. Sharma.

In a few days, the people of East Timor will be celebrating the second anniversary of their independence. We are pleased to see that, with the support of the international community, the people of East Timor, through their creativity and hard work, have achieved considerable progress in all areas in the process of nation-building. The Government of East Timor has been effectively fulfilling its national administrative functions, and the social and economic development of East Timor has taken an encouraging first step. Its relationship with its neighbours is

continuing to improve and develop. Indeed, the people of East Timor can justly be proud of their remarkable achievements.

At this stage, the Government of East Timor is actively preparing for local elections throughout the country and will further develop its civil service, judicial and law-enforcement systems. We believe that those measures will have a positive impact on the future development of East Timor.

As a nascent State, East Timor continues to face a host of challenges in its quest for national stability and for economic and social development. The functions of the Government of East Timor need to be further strengthened. Indeed, the building of its infrastructure, as well as electoral preparations, are being hampered by financial difficulties. The administrative and judicial capacity of regions beyond Dili remains weak. In order fully to achieve social stability and sustainable economic development, the Government and the people of East Timor must make even greater efforts, and the continued support of the international community remains indispensable.

We appreciate the active role played by UNMISET in the development and construction of East Timor. We endorse the Secretary-General's recommendation to extend UNMISET and to adjust its size and mandate appropriately. We hope that the Security Council will adopt the relevant draft resolution as soon as possible.

We appeal to the international community to continue to provide assistance for the development of East Timor. China will, as always, support and participate in the economic reconstruction of East Timor. We are confident that the people of East Timor will achieve even greater accomplishments in future in the building of their nation.

Mr. Muñoz (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): Let me first join in the condolences expressed with regard to the terrorist attack in Grozny which took the life of President of the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation, Akhmad Kadyrov, and a number of other victims. We are prepared to work on a presidential statement to be made by the Council.

We welcome the briefing on Timor-Leste and the outstanding work done by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Kamalesh Sharma, and his team. We welcome also the presence here of the Senior Minister and Minister in the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of Timor-Leste, Ms. Ana Pessoa Pinto.

Chile supports the Secretary-General's proposal to extend the present United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET) for an additional 12 months in a consolidation phase, and we believe that the proposed mandate is appropriate.

Regarding the first element referred to in the report, we fully agree that the provision of assistance with respect to the justice system and administrative structures is essential for political viability and stability. We are concerned by the extensive delays in the area of the administration of justice and by the shortcomings noted in the area of human rights and related proceedings, and we agree that there is a need to promote capacity in that area.

As to the second aspect, namely strengthening law enforcement in the country, in particular through police training, we agree that there is a need for UNMISET and the international community to continue contributing to and supporting the training process for the national police of Timor-Leste. We welcome in particular the fact that its 3,021 staff members are already carrying out their tasks in all districts of the country. We reiterate the vital function of the Rapid Intervention Unit, and we welcome the fact that an adequate level of capability has been achieved. We deem it crucial also to continue to provide training for the Border Patrol Unit. Despite the progress achieved, we believe that the national police must continue with its training.

With respect to the third element, namely the maintenance of security, we agree that this is a key element for achieving stability in Timor-Leste. While it is true that — fortunately — the situation in the country has been rather peaceful, we need to bear in mind all factors and not ignore possible sources of instability. We believe, therefore, that the Secretary-General's proposal is appropriate and reasonable.

Another essential element for achieving progress and true stability in Timor-Leste is sustainable economic development. In that respect, we hope that greater progress will be made in the exploitation of the country's mineral resources. We would also highlight the programmes financed by the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank for the creation of rural power stations, the construction of schools, road

improvements, and the rehabilitation of marketplaces and health services.

We are pleased with the excellent cooperation and political agreements between Timor-Leste and Indonesia. We hope that they will soon arrive at an agreement on land borders and find a solution to the problem of refugees, in particular regarding those responsible for serious crimes, so that they may be brought to trial.

We also recognize the outstanding work and efforts of other regional actors and of donors from the international community with respect to this young country.

In the area of human rights, we value the assistance provided by UNMISET in efforts to shed light on the crimes committed in 1999, and we recognize the need to continue decisively supporting the process for an additional year. In that connection, we particularly welcome the work carried out by the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation. We look forward with interest to the publication of its final report and recommendations in October of this year.

Finally, we reiterate the need for a one-year extension of UNMISET, in a reduced size and with a modified mandate. We hope that the members of the Council will reach an agreement in that regard to support development and stability in Timor-Leste.

Mr. Holliday (United States of America): We too would like to extend our condolences and our thoughts and prayers for the victims of the terrorist action in Grozny, which killed President Kadyrov and others. We look forward to working on a presidential statement on that matter.

I would like to welcome Senior Minister Ana Pessoa to New York. We would also like to thank Ambassador Sharma for his presentation today and for his outstanding work as the Secretary-General's Special Representative at the head of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET). His untiring efforts to promote political and economic development in East Timor will have a lasting effect on that new country.

As we stated in February, we agree with the Secretary-General that UNMISET should be extended to consolidate gains made during the past two years of the Mission, and we thank the Secretary-General for his revision of the components of the extended Mission. Although we recognize that at this time an UNMISET extension will increase stability in Timor-Leste, we believe the peacekeeping mission should end no later than May 2005, at which time the Government should resume full responsibility for its own security while continuing to receive support from elsewhere in the United Nations system and from other members of the international community.

The Government and the people of Timor-Leste have made considerable strides towards self-sufficiency. With further assistance from the international donor community, United Nations agencies and UNMISET, we hope that the Timorese can increase public administrative capacity, develop strong security institutions and establish a strong judicial tradition with emphasis on human rights and the rule of law. Given the current limited capacity of Timor-Leste's public administration, we agree that further support from UNMISET in the form of civilian advisers will be necessary for the development of an independent, functioning civil administration. We expect that any assistance in that regard past May 2005 would be provided through normal bilateral and multilateral donor support.

We were encouraged to learn that since the Secretary-General's latest report (S/2004/333) was published, the Government of Timor-Leste acted to promulgate an organic law and disciplinary code for the Timorese police and an organic law for the Timorese defence forces. As we stated in February, the Government of Timor-Leste should do its part to nurture respect for the rule of law, and this action moves the Government closer to that goal. We look forward to hearing updates on the development of the Timor-Leste police and defence forces, and we ask that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General keep us informed of any new legislative and regulatory governmental actions in defining the respective roles and responsibilities of the Timorese security forces.

We commend bilateral donors that are providing considerable assistance to Timor-Leste in the form of police training. After UNMISET ends in May 2005, we hope that those and other bilateral donors will continue to provide any training and assistance that may be required.

We commend the work of the Serious Crimes Unit and underscore the usefulness of its role in

addressing the issue of accountability regarding the human rights violations and atrocities committed in East Timor in 1999. As with other elements within UNMISET, we believe the Serious Crimes Unit should maintain close adherence to its completion strategy, ending investigations no later than November 2004 so that it can conclude all its trials by no later than May 2005. The Secretary-General stated in his report that the Serious Crimes Unit should focus resources in order to complete trial and appellate litigation in a timely manner. We urge all countries to cooperate fully with the Serious Crimes Unit. In order to achieve justice for all the victims of human rights abuses, the international community and the United Nations should consider an international truth commission as a means of achieving accountability and, ultimately, reconciliation in Timor-Leste by resolving outstanding cases.

We look forward to working with our Council colleagues on a draft resolution to extend UNMISET. We hope a mandate extension can be adopted later this week.

Mr. Baja (Philippines): We join colleagues in expressing our condolences and sympathy to the Russian Government and to the victims of the terrible act of terrorism in Grozny.

We thank Mr. Kamalesh Sharma for his comprehensive briefing.

This is a crucial period for Timor-Leste. Much has been achieved by the people in building their nation, with the help of the international community. However, much remains to be done. After all, nation-building requires time, efforts and commitment in order for the process to bear fruit. As the mandate of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET) expires on 20 May, that is foremost in our minds.

In defining the new mandate of UNMISET, the Secretary-General's report (S/2004/333) provides us with important factors to consider. In the report, the peace and security situation in Timor-Leste is characterized as having remained generally "calm and peaceful during the reporting period" (*para. 45*). The proposal for a military component has been justified as responding to exceptional situations that exceed the capacity of Timor-Leste security agencies to undertake preventive action to promote public order and to assist in the provision of security to United Nations premises and personnel there. On the basis of those justifications, my delegation fully supports the Secretary-General's recommendation to extend UNMISET for a further one-year consolidation phase.

The Philippines agrees with the three main elements of the role of UNMISET during that consolidation phase: support for public administration and justice in Timor-Leste, support for the development of law enforcement, and support for the security and stability of Timor-Leste. As a country contributing to UNMISET, my country stands ready to provide support in the areas identified as requiring UNMISET's support in the consolidation phase.

The Timor-Leste authorities and the Timorese have always demonstrated their commitment to fulfilling their responsibilities in nation-building, notwithstanding their very limited capacities. The presence at this meeting of the Council of Senior Minister Ana Pessoa further mirrors that commitment. My delegation is confident that the extension of UNMISET under the Secretary-General's proposed plan will contribute substantially to bringing Timor-Leste closer to self-sufficiency and to ensuring sustainable peace and stability in the country. However, my delegation's optimism is tempered by the realistic assessment that even after a one-year extension of UNMISET for a consolidation phase, many areas will still need further support and assistance.

Therefore, my delegation particularly appreciates, and wishes to invite attention to, the very forward-looking component of the report on the requirements remaining after May 2005. It may be timely to bear in mind at this point that peace in Timor-Leste — as in any other country — is predicated on just social and economic development. The report notes the limited revenue and widespread poverty in Timor-Leste, circumstances which continue to pose severe constraints on the country's social and economic development. While the forthcoming conference of development partners, to be held in Dili on 19 May, could provide some donor assistance, Timor-Leste's development should be pursued by generating more revenues from its own natural resources and industries.

All the efforts made and gains achieved by UNMISET and the international community in ending the conflict and in nation-building in Timor-Leste would be for naught if, in the end, Timor-Leste's self-sufficiency could not be assured or sustained. Timor-Leste's immediate neighbours and the other countries

in the region, the Philippines included, should be ready to go the extra mile in providing the appropriate support to Timor-Leste, not only to preserve but also to further the dividends of peace in the country.

The essential role of Timor-Leste's partners in the country's long-term development and the entire region's stability is a crucial one. When we consider the situation there, it may be relevant to note that some of the lessons learned have been applied and could be applied to other United Nations operations. United Nations involvement and regional leadership there were successful because they had wide domestic support. United Nations efforts were focused on getting the cooperation of Indonesia, and the accent was on persuasion and underscoring the realities on the ground.

The Timor-Leste experience is one of the best examples of consolidated action among the Council, the Secretary-General, regional players led by the Association of South-East Asian Nations, Australia and Japan, and the international community at large. We recognize Ambassador Sharma's role in that regard. As the Security Council's involvement recedes, the rest of the United Nations system will need to take up the challenge of ensuring successful post-conflict recovery in Timor-Leste.

Mr. Adechi (Benin) (*spoke in French*): I should like to begin by conveying our condolences to the Government of the Russian Federation. We condemn the terrorist attack carried out in Grozny on 9 May. We extend our sympathy to the bereaved families.

We also wish to welcome here the Minister of State of Timor-Leste, Ms. Ana Pessoa Pinto.

Like preceding speakers, we thank the Secretary-General for his latest report on the situation in Timor-Leste (S/2004/333). We also thank his Special Representative, Mr. Kamalesh Sharma, for his excellent briefing and his personal account. Having listened to Mr. Kamalesh Sharma's briefing and read the report, we indeed welcome the ongoing progress made by the Government and the people of Timor-Leste in establishing democratic institutions and building the structure of a viable State. We welcome the adoption by the national Parliament of the Organic Law on the Office of the Presidency, which opens the way to establishing two new constitutional bodies — the Superior Council of Defence and Security and the Council of State.

Recent progress made by the East Timor national police augurs well for the upcoming transfer of police authority to the Timorese Government, despite the shortage of capacity and available resources. It is important that the instruments regulating the police be adopted soon in order to create a republican institution that will ensure the rule of law and freedom for all citizens. Special attention must be given to efforts aimed at avoiding excessive use of force and at ensuring greater respect for human rights.

We moreover welcome the improved security situation, as well as the work done by the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET) in the area of transferring competences. We fully support the modification of the composition of UNMISET in order to deal with the problems identified in that regard. We believe that that will enable Timor-Leste ultimately to assume full responsibility for security and stability throughout its national territory.

The Government of Timor-Leste's control of that sovereign function will also depend on maintaining good relations with its neighbours, which means dealing with many pending issues such as finalizing border demarcation, the return of refugees from the western part of Timor and establishing maritime crossing points. We therefore urge Timor-Leste, Indonesia and Australia to intensify their cooperation to make progress in these matters.

Regarding public administration and justice, we welcome the efforts aimed at adopting a law on the establishment of an Office of the Provedor for Human Rights and Justice. Given the crucial role that Office will play in monitoring respect for human rights, it is necessary that the international community provide Timor-Leste with greater support for its establishment. Like the Secretary-General, we stress the need to continue efforts to fight impunity and to promote national reconciliation.

As I said in my statement on 20 February 2004, Timor-Leste is now among the least developed countries. The assessment of the economic and social situation of the country contained in the Secretary-General's report indicates the magnitude of the challenges to be addressed. In that regard, we believe that the problems of unemployment and difficulties encountered in the reintegration of ex-combatants are of real concern and merit the special attention of the

international community. In that regard, UNMISET's exit strategy must be coupled with a strategy for strengthening Timor-Leste's public administration and productive capacity.

In the final analysis, we can state that the many problems noted in Timor-Leste argue in favour of supporting the Secretary-General's recommendation to extend the UNMISET mandate for one year. Therefore, we anticipate with great hope the upcoming conference of Timor-Leste's development partners, scheduled for 19 May 2004. We are convinced that the international community will take that opportunity to step up its support to the Timorese people, who are so resolutely committed to sustained economic growth and sustainable development.

Mr. Motoc (Romania): I cannot start without expressing outrage at and strongly condemning the terrorist attack in Grozny, Russian Federation. Romania's sympathy and condolences go to the victims and the bereaved families and to the people and the Government of the Russian Federation.

On the issue at hand, I join other members of the Council in thanking the Secretary-General for his report on the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET) (S/2004/333) and Special Representative Sharma for his briefing. My delegation welcomes the participation in this Council meeting of Senior Minister Ana Pessoa of Timor-Leste.

As Romania aligns itself with the statement to be made shortly by the Permanent Representative of Ireland on behalf of the European Union, I will limit myself to making a few brief comments.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the authorities of Timor-Leste for their steady efforts and encouraging achievements towards developing their country as a stable and democratic nation. All the remarkable progress that has been achieved so far has brought closer the moment when responsibility will be transferred from the international presence to the people and the Government of Timor-Leste. The Security Council, bilateral donors and the wider international community have invested enormous energy and expectations in Timor-Leste.

Remarkable success has been achieved so far, but further international assistance will be required in order to consolidate and secure its irreversibility. That vision is reflected in the recommendations made by the Secretary-General in his special report of February 2004 (S/2004/117) and is developed further in his most recent report. This vision is shared by Romania, which is supportive of the Secretary-General's recommendations.

As the report states, ongoing international support continues to be essential to enable Timor-Leste to reach a critical threshold of self-sufficiency. Romania believes that that support can best be provided through a continued multisector United Nations presence in Timor-Leste that includes a limited military component.

The extension of UNMISET for a further one-year consolidation phase with a reduced size and a modified mandate will consolidate momentum for the development of full Timorese self-sufficiency and will confirm Timor-Leste as a fine example of successful United Nations peacekeeping and peace-building.

Finally, I wish to express Romania's satisfaction with the continued development of cooperation between Timor-Leste and Indonesia. We hope that the political commitment will be shortly followed by concrete results in the finalization of an agreement on the border line, as well as in addressing the issue of former refugees remaining in West Timor. Likewise, we encourage the strengthening of bilateral cooperation in bringing those responsible for serious crimes to justice.

Ms. Menéndez (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): We wish in turn to begin by conveying our condolences to the Government and people of the Russian Federation for the terrorist attack committed yesterday.

We welcome the briefing provided by Ambassador Sharma and congratulate him heartily on his work as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for East Timor. We also welcome the presence of Minister Pessoa Pinto here at this meeting.

My delegation fully endorses the statement to be made by the representative of Ireland on behalf of the European Union. We wish to add a few brief comments of our own.

First, we wholeheartedly support the Secretary-General's recommendation to extend the mandate of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor for a further year in order to consolidate and further strengthen the enormous progress registered by Timor-Leste since it achieved independence. We believe that

the composition and objectives of the three programmes proposed by the Secretary-General will make it possible to accomplish those tasks.

As we said here in February, the additional efforts proposed are relatively modest in comparison to achievements made to date. At the same time, it is essential that we successfully conclude the consolidation of the institutions of Timor-Leste and avoid any setbacks. To that end, we need the full cooperation of the Timorese institutions, just as they have cooperated with us so far. The Secretary-General is quite right to note that

> "The Timorese leadership can lay the foundations for future progress by fostering a culture of political dialogue and debate, anchored in the values of human rights, tolerance and respect for the law" (*S/2004/333, para. 69*)

as well as by promoting key legislation in the areas of human rights, public administration, anti-corruption, policing and defence.

We welcome the excellent cooperation shown by the Governments of Timor-Leste and Indonesia and hope that it will bear fruit in the settlement of two principal issues: the delimitation of their land borders and the presence of thousands of refugees in West Timor.

In conclusion, the United Nations can be proud of the success achieved by the people of Timor-Leste with the support of the international community. Spain is prepared to continue to contribute to the consolidation of the self-sufficiency and full development of Timor-Leste.

Mr. Sardenberg (Brazil): I would like to associate the delegation of Brazil with the condolences expressed by previous speakers to the Russian Federation and to the victims' families over the terrible and cowardly terrorist act that killed President Akhmad Kadyrov and other persons in Grozny, Chechnya, yesterday.

I express my appreciation to you, Sir, for convening this meeting and to Ambassador Kamalesh Sharma for introducing the Secretary-General's report. The positive developments taking place in Timor-Leste can be attributed to a large extent to Ambassador Sharma's able and forward-looking leadership, as well as to the work that the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET) is undertaking in the country. I would like to join you, Sir, and other speakers in thanking Ambassador Sharma for his invaluable work as Special Representative of the Secretary-General for East Timor. We wish him the best.

I would also like to welcome the presence at this meeting of Timor-Leste's Senior Minister, Ana Pessoa Pinto.

The progress achieved so far must be consolidated into a stable Timor-Leste with improved political, social and economic conditions. Our steadfast cooperation in a good number of critical areas is still required to underpin the exercise of sovereignty by the East Timorese. We therefore concur with the Secretary-General's recommendations regarding the extension of UNMISET for a consolidation phase, reduced in size and under a modified mandate.

Improvements in the security sector, in particular the recent approval of key legislation concerning the police and defence sectors, have been encouraging. Local authorities are fulfilling their commitments and we expect Timor-Leste to further develop its own capability and to reach self-sufficiency in security with the support of the international community. The extension of UNMISET's mandate will prove an important measure to achieve this goal.

As the Secretary-General points out, limited revenue and widespread poverty in the country continue to pose severe constraints on reconstruction and development efforts. The expected flow of revenue from the exploration for oil and gas in the Timor Sea has not materialized. Progress in this area is crucial to providing sustained means of income for the people of Timor-Leste. In this regard, we welcome the convening of a conference of development partners in Dili on 19 May and we concur with the Secretary-General's assessment that agreement between Australia and Timor-Leste on exploiting mineral resources in the Timor Sea, in a mutually beneficial manner, would represent an essential contribution to that effort.

Brazil also welcomes the steady improvement of relations between the Governments of Timor-Leste and Indonesia. Brasilia has been actively supporting Jakarta and Dili in their efforts to build upon their recent achievements and strengthen new areas of cooperation. While fully understanding all parties' concerns and constraints, we believe that there is enough common ground to meet the requirements for justice, stability and peace.

Stability and improved economic and social conditions in Timor-Leste are extremely relevant not only for the region, but also for all members of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries. On their behalf, we would like to take this opportunity to convey our appreciation for all international assistance already provided to the country. We expect the international community, through the United Nations and its agencies, as well as bilaterally, to continue providing support to the East Timorese. The decision to be taken by this Council concerning the extension of UNMISET can reflect such willingness.

No one wants an open-ended mission in Timor-Leste. A clear exit strategy has been put forward by the Secretary-General in his report, taking into account the need for capacity-building and the importance of not jeopardizing progress achieved so far. It is also in the best interests of the international community that Timor-Leste remain a showcase for the United Nations accomplishments.

Finally, I would like to inform the Council that Angola and Brazil will be circulating a draft resolution regarding the extension of UNMISET's mandate for consideration by the Council's members. We hope that the Council will be able to adopt the draft resolution by the end of this week.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of Pakistan.

Pakistan adds its condemnation of the act of terrorism in Grozny and conveys its deepest condolences to the Russian Federation and to the families of the victims.

I would like to thank Ambassador Kamalesh Sharma for introducing the Secretary-General's report and for updating us on the situation in Timor-Leste. Pakistan has extended full support for the success of the new State of Timor-Leste — a State that emerged in an exemplary exercise of the right of self-determination, a Charter principle to which Pakistan is deeply committed.

Timor-Leste has made remarkable progress since its independence two years ago. Credit for that must go first and foremost to the people and Government of Timor-Leste. We appreciate in particular the bold efforts of the Timorese leadership to encourage national reconciliation. We hope that it will continue to strive to heal the deep wounds of the past, both internal and external, and to build the foundations for sustainable peace and progress.

Pakistan supports the efforts of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET) to consolidate peace and assist international development in Timor-Leste. We support the extension of its mandate for a further year, as recommended by the Secretary-General. We believe that that is necessary to allow the Mission to fulfil its mandate. We also note the report's recommendations for a new composition of the Mission's downsized force structure, which includes both military and police units.

The outstanding tasks for UNMISET include providing support to Timor-Leste in key areas: public administration and justice, development of law enforcement and the maintenance of security and stability.

We must bear in mind the observation in the Secretary-General's report

> "that the provision of support through peacekeeping can only meet the most urgent of the country's requirements. It must be complemented and built upon by bilateral and multilateral support, if real progress is to take place." (*S/2004/333, para. 72*)

In our view, the most imposing long-term challenge confronting Timor-Leste remains the promotion of economic prosperity. International assistance will continue to be indispensable for that purpose. The international community must also continue to assist the new country even after UNMISET's departure. The continued support of Timor-Leste's neighbours is vital in that context.

Pakistan believes that the development of close and friendly relations between Timor-Leste and Indonesia is of utmost importance and is in the best interest of both neighbours. We are confident that both sides will continue to work together to resolve their outstanding issues, in particular the arrangements for the demarcation and management of their common border as well as strengthening mutual support and cooperation.

We hope that Timor-Leste's other neighbours, including Australia, will make every endeavour to resolve their bilateral issues with Timor-Leste in order to allow the new country to attain its full economic potential.

Timor-Leste is widely considered a success story for United Nations peacekeeping. However, as Kamalesh Sharma said today, success is a retrospective judgement. The real success of the United Nations in Timor-Leste will be measured in years and perhaps decades. Timor-Leste will continue to need the support of the international community in the remaining phases of UNMISET's presence and beyond. All efforts must be made to ensure that the gains so painstakingly achieved are consolidated and are not lost, and that Timor-Leste is remembered in history as a model of collaboration between a committed national leadership and a responsive and generous international community.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

As another measure to optimize the use of our time, and in order to allow as many delegations to take the floor as possible, I will not individually invite speakers to take seats at the table and to resume their seats on the side. When a speaker is taking the floor, the Conference Officer will seat the next speaker on the list at the table. I thank the non-members for their cooperation and understanding.

I now give the floor to Mrs. Ana Pessoa Pinto, Senior Minister and Minister in the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of Timor-Leste.

Ms. Pessoa Pinto (Timor-Leste): Mr. President, this is the first time that I appear before such an august body that has contributed so much to my country's freedom and well-being. Hence, my first words are necessarily of gratitude for the Council's unrelenting interest and support, without which the progress we have made so far would not have been possible.

You are all very familiar with our Senior Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, José Ramos-Horta, who sends his warm regards. He has been in Denpasar, Bali, this weekend in meetings with his Indonesian colleague and friend, Hassan Wirayuda. Together they have reviewed the progress so far on our efforts to demarcate our common land border, as well as addressing other residual issues.

It is a particular pleasure for me to be able to participate in this meeting of the Council, which will consider both the last report of the Secretary-General and the last statement of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General under the Council's current mandate, leading to a consideration by the Council of a resolution on the extension of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET) with a modified mandate.

The story of the association of the United Nations with my country is a unique and inspiring chapter in the history of our people and will always be linked to the attainment of our independence and the vision of self-reliance and social and economic fulfilment we are striving to accomplish.

I would like to acknowledge the historic and unique partnership that binds us so closely together. Starting with a resolution of the General Assembly, the contribution of the Special Envoys of the Secretary-General, the role of the United Nations in conducting the referendum, the endorsement of the INTERFET by the Council in a particularly tragic time for our people, the executive administration provided by the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) in close cooperation with the Transitional Government of Timor-Leste, the national parliamentary elections, the election of the President and, most recently, the Mission of Support in specific areas to the first Government of Timor-Leste offer a chain of association that cannot be separated from the fulfilment of the aspirations of our people. It is appropriate to recall that, now that we are entering the phase of gradual closure of that special relationship.

In historical terms, there was no road map, but together we have managed to rebuild a nation. The independent and self-confident State of Timor-Leste has emerged from the debris of disorder and desperation that is so fresh in our minds.

I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report (S/2004/333), which highlights many important areas where considerable progress has been made. However, I will not dwell on those achievements. The report also identifies shortcomings and points the way forward, stressing the need for concerted action, both by the Government and people of Timor-Leste and the country's generous development partners.

However, it is appropriate to clarify that the investigations of a number of civil servants and police officers was due to the fact that the political rallies referred to in the Secretary-General's report took place over two consecutive days, one of which was a work day, were and conducted during work hours while the police officers were in uniform.

In that regard, I would also like to stress that following the approval of the Civil Service Act, which embodies the code of conduct and disciplinary rules and procedures, forms and manuals have been prepared and finalized with the valuable assistance of UNDP advisors to facilitate the understanding and the dissemination of the Act. A major programme of dissemination is being prepared and will involve various Government institutions, including the Ministry of State Management, the Inspector General, the Human Rights Advisor and the Advisor for Gender in the Office of the Prime Minister, and will also involve members of Parliament and civil society.

In relation to civil society, allow me to focus on the cooperation of the Catholic Church with the Government to instil a culture of ethical and moral values where transparency and accountability are not merely fashionable slogans. Together, the Government, the Church, the presidency and the national Parliament are forging a new alliance to revive our cultural values and beliefs. The Church's programme was launched at the ordination of Don Alberto Ricardo as bishop of Dili on 2 May 2004. The programme is anchored in the Church's social doctrine, with the aim of attaining the participation of women, preventing HIV/AIDS and domestic violence and embarking on responsible family planning where education and moral values play a pivotal role.

With regard to the tensions in the Dili mosque, it is worth noting that the mosque was built and is owned by the Timorese Muslim community and that it has been illegally occupied since "black September" in 1999; it has since been a source of problems. Today there are close to 300 undocumented and illegal immigrants living within the confines of the mosque. I am pleased to report that tensions have eased considerably, thanks to the professionalism of our police, working in conjunction with the human rights adviser to the Prime Minister and the International Organization for Migration, and thanks to the tolerance of my Government.

All illegal aliens occupying the mosque have been advised by the Government that they are required to present themselves to the Immigration Department and to provide their documentation to the authorities for verification. Those that are without identification papers are required to contact their respective embassies. To facilitate this, the Government has extended the deadline. Those not in possession of the required papers are at risk of being expelled; applications for permanent visas will be processed on a case-by-case basis and according to the laws of Timor-Leste. Resolution of this issue will further enable Timorese Muslims to exercise their constitutional and fundamental human right to freedom of religion, which until now has been jeopardized by the illegal immigrants occupying the mosque.

I am also glad to inform the Council that the Organic Law on the Policia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL) and the Organic Law on the Timorese Armed Forces (F-FDTL) have been approved and have been promulgated by the President and that they have entered into force. The law on a code of conduct, disciplinary rules and procedures for the PNTL has also been approved by the Council of Ministers and is expected to be promulgated by the President and published in the official gazette by Thursday of this week. As pointed out, those laws are of great importance for the maintenance of law and order, because they provide clarity concerning the roles of the police and armed forces, particularly with regard to backup arrangements for support to civil power.

We would like also to thank Ambassador Sharma for his insightful presentation of the Secretary-General's report (S/2004/333). We have worked closely with him, and we feel a deep resonance with what he has said. As has been pointed out, we have been through good and not so good times together. Ambassador Sharma knows our trials and tribulations and has assisted us in facing them with solidarity, wisdom and commitment. We are sorry that he will be leaving Timor-Leste at the end of the present mandate of UNMISET. We wish him all the best and are confident that he will succeed in his future endeavours.

We are also convinced that the Secretary-General will nominate an experienced special representative to succeed him, as he did when he chose Ambassador Sharma to follow in the distinguished footsteps of Sergio Vieira de Mello, to whose memory we again pay our deep respects. As this is my first time addressing the Security Council, I wish to acknowledge the invaluable contribution that Sergio made to our nation. I feel he was one of us.

I agree that much needs to be done to establish a society based on respect for the rule of law. The creation and continued professionalism of an impartial, accountable and responsive police service is an

important element, and so is the development of the judiciary. I am sure that members will appreciate that, the importance of those goals notwithstanding, we have worked within a very compressed time frame: on the fast forward button, as it were. The results must be considered in that perspective.

I trust that, through the deployment of police technical advisers, the provision of judge-mentors and the programme of assistance to core administrative structures and to the justice system, the support of the United Nations will contribute to the achievement of our goals. Those officers, working in harmony with their Timorese counterparts and conscious of the cultural sensitivities and the needs of our country, will enjoy unstinted cooperation with a view to meeting our shared objectives.

I am grateful that the international community has appreciated the need for maintenance of a small military contingent to provide assistance to the F-FDTL and the PNTL in emergencies, to preserve and restore the fragile peace that currently exists.

Timor-Leste enjoys the best of relations with its neighbours. We acknowledge the goodwill towards Timor-Leste that exists at all levels in Indonesia and particularly the efforts deployed by Indonesia's leaders to resolve outstanding issues. However, individuals and groups inimical to our interests still exist. We trust that the support of the international community, directed towards resettlement of refugees, promotion of reconciliation and economic and social development, will produce concrete results and diminish such threats. I would like to note that finalization of the land border demarcation between Indonesia and Timor-Leste and early operationalization of agreements to facilitate cross-border links between residents of border areas on both sides would contribute significantly to that process. Despite political will and determination on both sides, we have failed to reach agreement, through a lack of technical development, on meeting our deadlines. Timor-Leste would enhance its efforts, in cooperation with Indonesia, so as to finalize an agreement before the end of June 2004.

Negotiations on our maritime border with Australia have begun, with the first formal round having been held in Dili. The position of my Government on this is simple and clear: we are entitled to a just and fair maritime boundary with our two neighbours, Australia and Indonesia; and we are guided by principles of international Law and practice.

Between Timor-Leste and Australia, in an area that is far closer to our shores, lie vast reserves of oil and gas. A just and fair resolution of this issue would mean better health care, education and economic independence for our country, with the eradication of poverty and the fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals. We know that international law is on our side, and we believe that Australia, one of the wealthiest countries in the world, as a neighbour and as a friend, will find its way to respect justice and democratic principles.

I must emphasize the need for substantial and continuing support from our development partners to overcome the formidable challenges before our new nation. No efforts at enlightened governance can succeed unless we can also advance economically and show visible improvements in the quality of life and in terms of the creation of jobs. The international community must assist in ensuring that the investments made in strengthening our self-governing capability are a springboard to prosperity.

We would like to thank the Secretary-General for having outlined several mechanisms and requirements, including the appointment of Timorese counterparts, so that maximum advantage can be gained from the support being extended by the international community through the Council. We appreciate that advice, and we shall continue our endeavours in that direction. It will have been noted that in recent months, great progress has been made in that respect and many of the recommendations in the report of the Secretary-General have been met. However, I would like to stress that, practically speaking, it is impossible to run until one learns to walk.

While we certainly do not intend to rest on our accomplishments, further progress in the areas of good governance and political development will require substantial economic growth and social development. I trust that Timor-Leste will continue to benefit from the support and assistance of the international community in that regard, so as to guarantee that the success story is sustainable and that it is a reason for all of us here to be proud.

The President: The next speaker inscribed on my list is the representative of Singapore.

Mr. Mahbubani (Singapore): At the outset, we would like to associate ourselves with our colleagues in expressing our condemnation of the bombing that took place in Grozny. We express our condolences to the families of those who lost who lives and our sympathies to those who were wounded.

Thank you, Mr. President, for convening this meeting. We are pleased that the Security Council has once again provided an opportunity for concerned non-Council members to air their views on this important subject. Let me quickly thank Secretary-General Kofi Annan and Under-Secretary-General Jean-Marie Guéhenno for the latest report (S/2004/333). At the same time, I should like to join Senior Minister Ana Pessoa Pinto in paying a special tribute to Ambassador Kamalesh Sharma for the work he has done. I was present in this Chamber when he was appointed. We had no certainty then that today we would be as well off as we are. We owe Ambassador Sharma a special vote of thanks for all the success we have had. We wish him all the best.

I will be concise, as Singapore's position on this issue is well known. The Council's last public meeting on Timor-Leste was held only three months ago. At that time, we heard nearly every speaker support an extension of the mandate of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET) for a further one-year consolidation phase. While some progress has been made since February, it remains irrefutable that Timor-Leste will still require assistance in a number of areas beyond May 2004 if the gains made to date are to be sustained. Without the continued support of the United Nations and the rest of the international community, Timor-Leste's path to self-sufficiency could very well be jeopardized.

The Secretary-General has once again set out in his report a compelling case for the extension of the Mission, with a modified mandate and a significantly reduced presence of about 700 international personnel. Singapore fully supports all of the Secretary-General's recommendations, and we urge the Council to support and endorse them as well. It is important that we ensure that the Secretary-General is provided with the resources he requires, across the three broad programmes that he has proposed, to allow Timor-Leste to reach a critical threshold of self-sufficiency. Such an additional investment would seem relatively modest, considering the scale of the task at hand and the difference it would make.

Let me add here that Singapore strongly supports the proposed deployment of an international response unit of 125 gendarmerie, along with the earlier proposed military component of some 310 formed troops, to form a two-element security force. Given the continued possibility of challenges across the security spectrum, the complementary deployment of both the gendarmerie unit and the military component would enable UNMISET to assist the Timor-Leste Government in dealing with a range of security challenges, even while Timor-Leste builds up its own capacities in that arena.

As the Senior Minister said only a few minutes ago, we must be wary of being overconfident or hasty, and mindful that we do not prematurely withdraw our support for Timor-Leste. The fragility of the progress made so far cannot be overstated. Let us stay the course and ensure that the gains made so far are consolidated and that a solid foundation is laid for Timor-Leste's future development.

This morning, I heard Ambassador Kamalesh Sharma say that a success story is a retrospective evaluation. I also heard your comment on that subject, Mr. President. But let me add here that the continuation of this success story and the perception that it is a success story are assets that the Security Council has. At a time when the Council should be concerned about its standing in the world, it helps the Council to have the continuation of a success story such as Timor-Leste. That is a responsibility that we hope the Council will not walk away from.

The President: The next speaker inscribed on my list is the representative of Ireland.

Mr. Ryan (Ireland): The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ireland, Mr. Brian Cowen, speaking in his capacity as President of the Council of the European Union, yesterday condemned the terrorist attack during the Victory Day celebrations at the Dynamo stadium in Grozny. Minister Cowen said:

> "I condemn utterly this appalling act of terror in a crowded stadium, which has claimed the lives of many people, including the President of the Chechen Republic, Mr. Kadyrov. I extend my condolences to the families of all the victims of this terrible act. No political cause can justify terrorism."

As this morning is my first opportunity to address the Council in the month of May, I would like to

congratulate you, Sir, and Pakistan on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council, and to thank your predecessor, the Permanent Representative of Germany, for the excellent manner in which he and his delegation executed the presidency in the month of April. With your indulgence, Mr. President, I would also like to note that this morning's statement to the Security Council by the European Union is the first since the enlargement of the Union, on 1 May.

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU). The candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey; the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro; and the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.

The European Union welcomes this opportunity to express once again our support for the remarkable achievements made since independence by the people of Timor-Leste, with the assistance of the United Nations, the support of the Security Council and the commitment of the wider international community. In that regard, I recall and refer the Council to the EU's most recent statement on Timor-Leste, delivered here in this Chamber on 20 February 2004.

The European Union supports the efforts of the Government of Timor-Leste to consolidate the political institutions, to promote the social and economic development of the country and to uphold the rule of law while building a new nation. In particular, the European Union welcomes developments such as the largely calm security situation, the continuing positive relationship between Timor-Leste and Indonesia, the continuing development of the country's public administration, the fact that the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation continues to provide a community-based solution for less serious crimes committed in connection with the political conflict, and the assumption of responsibility for routine policing throughout the country by the national police force.

In addition, and in the context of ending impunity and promoting a culture of accountability and transparency, the European Union notes with interest the continuing process of prosecuting those accused of serious crimes. The European Union will continue to follow closely the relevant trials in Dili and Jakarta.

Much remains to be done in all these fields and, while the primary responsibility for a successful transition lies with the Timorese people themselves, it remains incumbent on the international community to help consolidate the progress that is so evident in Timor-Leste. In this regard, the European Union looks forward to the planned conference of development partners in Dili on 19 May.

The EU recognizes that a critical element of the success so far has been the hard work of the men and women of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET), and we commend them, and those countries which have supported them in their efforts, for their dedication. The European Union recalls the advice of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ambassador Kamalesh Sharma, that the international community should consider carefully the completion of UNMISET's drawdown while also taking stock of what has been achieved, reflecting on the remaining tasks to be completed, and deciding on the best way forward to fulfil the legitimate needs of Timor-Leste in the post-May 2004 period.

In that regard, the European Union thanks the Secretary-General for his most recent report on and assessment of the current situation in Timor-Leste. The EU welcomes the report's assessment that the extraordinary progress that has taken place has left no doubt as to the momentum of transfer of responsibility to Timor-Leste. In particular, the European Union welcomes the reported progress towards the adoption of legislation for key public institutions.

Notwithstanding the progress made to date, the European Union shares the Secretary-General's view that further assistance will be needed to consolidate the achievements already made. In this regard, a continuing though modified presence for UNMISET seems required. The European Union looks forward to the outcome of the Security Council's consideration of the Secretary-General's analysis and his recommendation for an extension of UNMISET for a further one-year consolidation phase, with appropriate modifications to its mandate and composition.

The President: I thank the representative of Ireland for the kind words he addressed to me.

The next speaker is the representative of Japan, to whom I give the floor.

Mr. Haraguchi (Japan): Let me begin by expressing our deepest condolences to the Government of the Russian Federation for the lives that were lost, including that of President Kadyrov, in the bombing incident that took place in the Republic of Chechnya on 9 May. Such terrorist acts should never be tolerated on any grounds.

I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for having convened this public meeting. I would also like to thank Ambassador Kamalesh Sharma, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for his comprehensive briefing.

Timor-Leste will soon commemorate the second anniversary of its independence. Looking back at the last several years, the Government of Japan is deeply gratified to see that the Government of Timor-Leste and its people have been working as a united whole to build, brick by brick, the foundations of a new, independent State out of the turmoil that preceded its formation, with the support of the international community, especially the United Nations and the parties concerned, including Indonesia. The role of United Nations in particular has been significant. Japan reiterates its sincere appreciation for the contributions made by the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) and the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET) under the leadership of the late Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello and Ambassador Kamalesh Sharma.

As a nation belonging to the Asia-Pacific region, Japan attaches special importance to the stability and development of Timor-Leste and has been devoting its efforts to helping to achieve those objectives. We are therefore delighted that Timor-Leste has attained its current level of progress, after travelling such a long way on the path towards independent statehood. At the same time, my Government is of the view that the international community must continue to extend its support, so that continued progress for peace and development in Timor-Leste is ensured. More concretely, we believe it is crucially important to make certain that the valuable incipient achievements in the areas of peace, the rule of law, respect for human rights and development take root and endure, and we believe there is still an important role for the United Nations to play in helping to reach that objective.

From that point of view, the Government of Japan welcomes the Secretary-General's proposal to extend the mandate of UNMISET for a one-year consolidation phase, while clarifying which tasks are truly necessary. At the most recent Security Council meeting on this issue, Member States expressed various opinions in response to the Secretary-General's proposal, and the stakeholders in this enterprise, including Japan, have been in close contact with the Secretariat in an effort to build a consensus. My Government is convinced that this proposal is one which the international community can endorse unanimously.

What has been achieved by the international community in Timor-Leste since the United Nations undertook the transitional administration there may be regarded as a striking success story. However, in order for the story to be followed through to its conclusion, UNMISET must complete its activities and achieve its goals within this final one-year period. It is therefore necessary to conclude during this period the transition from the phase of peacekeeping operations for resolution of the conflict to the next phase of development activities, conducted through bilateral channels or relevant international institutions.

Timor-Leste in turn must recognize that this will be the final one-year period of active assistance on the part of the United Nations peacekeeping operation and must redouble its efforts to ensure that it will be able to stand on its own. In that connection, the review of the size of UNMISET, which is scheduled to be conducted at the end of this year on the basis of the progress achieved at that point towards the fulfilment of the mandate, should be duly carried out.

In support of the building of a sustainable Timor-Leste, Japan has pledged and has been steadily implementing assistance of up to $60 million over the first three years following independence, with a focus on peace-building and on reconstruction in the three key areas of agriculture, infrastructure and human resources development. We are pleased to learn that the roads and bridges which the Engineering Group of our Self-Defence Forces has constructed and repaired for the activities of UNMISET is benefiting the people of Timor-Leste as well. We also plan to hand over the equipment of the Engineering Group, including various types of vehicles, to the Government of Timor-Leste, in the hopes that it will meet their requirements. My Government is also making efforts to transfer technology by educating Timor-Leste Government staff

in the operation, maintenance and management of the donated equipment and material. We believe that such support is in line with the needs of Timor-Leste as described in the report of the Secretary-General.

Japan has thus been devoting its energies, through the activities of the Self-Defence Forces Engineering Group and through official development assistance, to the development of Timor-Leste. There remain, however, many areas in which further international assistance for nation-building is needed. For that reason, my Government believes that it is essential for the international community to continue its assistance to Timor-Leste in those areas where support is still required through well-coordinated activities of the United Nations and bilateral contributions.

Finally, I wish to underscore once again how important this final one-year period will be for Timor-Leste. The Government of Japan is convinced that, through the efforts of UNMISET and the people of Timor-Leste, guided by their wise leaders, stability and the foundations for development in Timor-Leste will be strengthened, and the United Nations peacekeeping operation will successfully complete its mission.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of India.

Mr. Nambiar (India): The Government of India has strongly condemned the heinous terrorist attack in Grozny, which killed the President of the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation and others. We extend our condolences to the Government and the people of the Russian Federation and to the bereaved families on this tragic occasion.

We felicitate you, Mr. President, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of May. I also take this opportunity to congratulate Ambassador Gunter Pleuger of Germany for his capable stewardship of the Council during the eventful month of April.

It has been almost two years since Timor-Leste attained its independence. That period has seen rapid progress in the emergence of Timor-Leste from conflict into confidence as a new member of the international community. In an era increasingly characterized by global conflict and conflagration, the success of this peace-building exercise, spearheaded by the United Nations, represents optimism and hope for the future. We are happy to have Senior Minister Ana Pessoa Pinto participating in this meeting of the Council.

The comprehensive support of the international community — mainly in the form of assistance for political and socio-economic development, capacity-building and security — has been instrumental in facilitating Timor-Leste's emergence as a viable State within the international community. This process needs to be consolidated. India supports the Secretary-General's recommendation, as contained in his report dated 29 April 2004 (S/2004/333), that the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET) be extended for a further, one-year phase to enable Timor-Leste to attain a critical threshold of self-sufficiency.

The three broad programmes that the extended United Nations mandate would facilitate appear fully justified, given the reduced size of the Mission and the imperative of ensuring a sound and logical conclusion to one of the most successful exercises in post-conflict peace-building that the United Nations has undertaken in recent years. We note from the Secretary-General's report that the first programme, for public administration and justice, would be undertaken by 58 civilian experts; the second programme, for the development of law enforcement, would be advanced through 157 civilian police advisers; and the third programme, support for the security and stability of Time-Leste, would be effected through 42 military liaison officers, 310 formed military and 125 gendarmerie.

Those support measures indicate a minimum, truncated international presence. The Secretary-General has noted in his report that it was the extraordinary progress that had taken place which permitted this swift downsizing in the international presence on the ground, leaving no doubt as to the momentum of the transfer of responsibility to Timor-Leste.

We agree with the Secretary-General when he counsels Timor-Leste and its sagacious leadership to further build on and consolidate the gains achieved by taking full advantage of the assistance and by making practical and policy decisions in a timely manner. Among the critical issues that require to be addressed early by the Government of Timor-Leste are the adoption of key legislation for public institutions, preparation for local elections through voter

registration and other logistical arrangements, measures to enhance economic development and self-sufficiency, and the consolidation of Timor-Leste's security institutions.

The international community cannot remain permanently engaged. The United Nations role and assistance in Timor-Leste will have to cede to the country's growing capacity and confidence in governance. Multilateral assistance of the current scale will also have to be substituted progressively by bilateral and regional cooperation.

India's relationship with Timor-Leste is characterized by exceptionally close bilateral ties marked by full understanding and support for one another's concerns. We welcomed the emergence of Timor-Leste as an independent nation in May 2002 and have keenly followed its successful efforts at democratic institution-building as well as economic development. We have assisted in Timor-Leste's socio-economic development through bilateral technical training programmes in capacity-building, university education and the deputation of experts for rural development. We take this opportunity to compliment the Timorese leadership for its steadfast and exemplary commitment to democracy and its transparent and accountable governance, which have greatly facilitated nation-building.

The continued cooperation and good relations between Timor-Leste and its neighbours, especially Indonesia, are important not only for regional harmony but also in the larger interest of South-South cooperation. The commitment displayed by the leadership of Timor-Leste and Indonesia towards forging a harmonious, good-neighbourly relationship must find practical expression through the completion of agreements on the land border, the resolution of the problems of refugees and the provision of socio-economic opportunities for people living on either side of the border.

In conclusion, I wish to join other delegations in paying special tribute to the former Special Representative of the Secretary-General, the late Sergio Vieira de Mello, and to the current Special Representative, Mr. Kamalesh Sharma, for their capable and dedicated leadership. We also pay tribute to the members of UNMISET and the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor for their exceptional contributions. Their actions provide a shining beacon to inspire the international community even as the United Nations continues in its effort to foster peace and development in other parts of this troubled world.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of Indonesia.

Mr. Jenie (Indonesia): Let me start by associating my delegation with the expression of condolences and sympathy to the delegation of the Russian Federation on the tragic loss of lives, including President Kadyrov, and the many injured in the bombing in Grozny.

I would also like to acknowledge the presence of Senior Minister Ana Pessoa Pinto and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Kamalesh Sharma, whom I thank for his important statement.

My delegation is always pleased to participate in the Security Council's discussions on the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET), the present mandate of which ends in 10 days.

I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his report (S/2004/333), in which he observes that the relationship between Timor-Leste and Indonesia has continued to benefit from the commitment to cooperation at the highest political levels. From the very beginning, the leadership of both nations agreed to cooperate on the basis of forward-looking and reconciliatory policies — a visionary and realistic approach that has served both nations well. It has led to peace in the area and has enabled both Timor-Leste and Indonesia to focus on development and on the best interests of their peoples.

My delegation is of the view that the strong commitment of the national leaders of both countries to the forward-looking approach to which they have pledged themselves will be extremely useful in resolving whatever problems we face now or may face in the future. That was restated and reaffirmed by the Foreign Ministers of Indonesia and Timor-Leste at their meeting in Bali just a couple of days ago.

In his report, the Secretary-General recommends to the Security Council the extension of UNMISET for a further one-year period, described as a consolidation phase, to enable the Mission to sustain, strengthen and build upon the gains made so far in Timor-Leste. My delegation has no objection whatsoever to this recommendation to the Council. Indeed, as has been

the case in the past, we are delighted to offer our support to policies that will enable Timor-Leste to make the greatest possible progress in the shortest possible time.

Indonesia, within its limited capacity as a developing country, has in a modest way contributed concretely to the economic development of Timor-Leste in various ways. Indonesia would like to urge the members of the international community, especially the developed nations, to redouble their efforts and increase their assistance to help Timor-Leste in its current economic development activities.

There are some other issues in the report on which we would like to comment. With regard to the border issue, in paragraph 11, the report, while acknowledging the significant technical work that has been accomplished, also alluded to the fact that finalization of a border agreement, for which further input is expected from Indonesia, has remained elusive. We see that as an inaccurate and one-sided view that reflects a lack of understanding with regard to the issue.

For the Council's information, the Technical Sub-Committee of Border Demarcation and Regulation, as part of the Joint Border Committee, since December 2001 has held meetings 11 times, and each meeting was preceded by a joint field survey. Indonesia has always been supportive of all activities aimed at finding a solution on the determination of borders between Indonesia and Timor-Leste and of all kinds of community activities along the border.

With regard to paragraph 12, on the issue of management of the border and the regulation of economic activities, I wish to further inform the Council that there are two agreements in place: the Arrangement on Traditional Border Crossings and Regulated Markets and the Technical Arrangements on the Coordination of Measures to Facilitate the Movement of People and Their Personal Effects between the Enclave of Oecussi and Other Parts of Timor-Leste. At this stage, Indonesia is awaiting the readiness of its partner to start implementing the agreements.

With regard to paragraph 13, on the problem of the so-called former refugees, I would like first of all to restate that there have been no more Timor-Leste refugees in Indonesia since December 2002, when more than 200,000 refugees returned voluntarily to Timor-Leste. From the registration process conducted by the Government of Indonesia from August until November 2003, it is clear that there are about 125,000 East Timorese living in nine provinces and 61 regencies throughout Indonesia. Of that figure, 113 people opted to return to Timor-Leste, and the Government will render its help to them. In addition, out of the 125,000 others who live in Indonesia, 28,000 live in East Nusa Tenggara province, West Timor, but not in camps, as the report suggested. They opted to stay in Indonesia as citizens and are being offered relocation within Indonesia. However, the Government will always be ready to render its help should they voluntarily decide to return to Timor-Leste at any time.

In relation to that issue, I also need to draw the Council's attention to the fact that the continued use of the term East Timorese "former refugees" is giving the wrong impression — that there are still problems related to security. They do not pose security threats. In that regard, it should be noted that the Government of Indonesia has taken some important measures to address security matters, including the Indonesian police and armed forces sweeping for and confiscating weapons in the border area; these in turn have been destroyed by the authorities, as witnessed by UNMISET representatives. Continuous checking is conducted by the security apparatus in West Timor.

I wish also to bring to the Council's attention the fact that the outdated and unnecessary retention of the Phase 5 security situation rating in West Timor, unilaterally imposed since 2000, has prevented access by and the operations of international agencies and non-governmental agencies in this process and has hampered their humanitarian programmes. As a matter of fact, there have not been any reports of border incidents since 2001. That clearly shows that security has been improved along the border.

On the issue of separated Timorese children, the Governments of Indonesia and Timor-Leste, in the absence of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, are taking full charge through their continued cooperation in order to see the issue successfully concluded in the best interests of the affected children.

Finally, my delegation is confident that the Council will take into account the continued progress in the bilateral relations between Indonesia and Timor-Leste, as well as in the stable security situation along

our borders, in view of the fact that since 2001 there have been no problems whatsoever in the area. As the Timor-Leste Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ramos Horta, correctly stated in his statement to the Council on 20 February 2004, "Obviously, we do not anticipate any external threat" (*S/PV.4913, p. 21*).

The President: The next speaker on my list is the representative of New Zealand, on whom I now call.

Mr. Mackay (New Zealand): At the outset, may I join others in expressing our condolences to the Russian Federation on the terrorist bombing that recently occurred in Grozny.

I would also like, at the outset, to acknowledge the presence of Senior Minister Ana Pessoa Pinto, who we are very pleased to see here in the Council Chamber today, as well as of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Kamalesh Sharma, whose leadership of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET) we very warmly acknowledge and appreciate. It is fitting that both of them are able to join us today as we reflect on what has been achieved in Timor-Leste and what remaining tasks lie ahead. Ambassador Sharma's goals, and those of the people serving under him, have undoubtedly contributed to a genuine, well-reciprocated partnership between the United Nations and the Government and the people of Timor-Leste.

New Zealand strongly supports the Secretary-General's recommendation that UNMISET be extended for a further 12 months. The reduced size and modified mandate laid out in the Secretary-General's report (S/2004/333) are, in our view, well judged and appropriate for a final consolidation phase.

We are particularly satisfied with the emphasis placed on the work undertaken by the Serious Crimes Unit. This is a critical component of the United Nations Mission, and we welcome the Security Council's continued support for the principle that those who have perpetrated serious crimes shall not enjoy impunity. We commend the Serious Crimes Unit for the progress made this year and for its commitment to a strategy that will refocus resources on litigation and defence in order to work towards completion of its programme of work by 20 May 2005.

The resolution of outstanding justice issues is also being pursued through the parallel work of Timor-Leste's Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation, which New Zealand strongly supports and to which it has contributed 1.2 million New Zealand dollars during the past year.

There are two other aspects of the most recent report of the Secretary-General that we would like to briefly mention. First, the elaboration of the security and stability component of UNMISET provides a clear and meaningful picture of its composition and tasks, and we appreciate the careful matching of capabilities to practical requirements on the ground. Secondly, the report highlights the deepening bilateral relationship between Timor-Leste and Indonesia, which was also referred to by Ambassador Jenie in the statement that he gave to the Council just a few minutes ago. The attention given by both parties to further developing this important relationship is clearly to be welcomed by us all.

Finally, we commend the determination and the leadership of Timor-Leste as the United Nations Mission enters this final consolidation phase. As a regional neighbour and friend, New Zealand will continue, through multilateral and bilateral mechanisms, to support Timor-Leste's journey towards self-sufficiency.

The President: I call on the representative of Portugal.

Mr. De Santa Clara Gomes (Portugal): Let me join other speakers in condemning the bombing in Grozny and in presenting my condolences to the families of the victims.

I thank the Secretary-General for his latest report on the situation in Timor-Leste, as well as Special Representative Kamalesh Sharma and his staff for the excellent work they have done and for the results achieved so far. I especially thank Kamalesh Sharma, who has done an outstanding job in Dili in the past two years. I would also like to welcome the presence of Minister Ana Pessoa Pinto and her valuable contribution to this debate.

Portugal subscribes to the interventions of Ireland, on behalf of the European Union, and of Brazil on behalf of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries.

Portugal welcomes the recommendation of the Secretary-General on the extension of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET), in a reduced size and with a modified

mandate, for a further 12-month consolidation phase in order to allow key tasks to be performed and to sustain, strengthen and build upon the gains made to date, permitting Timor-Leste to attain self-sufficiency.

In this context, I welcome the proposals of the Secretary-General on a programme of support for public administration and justice; on support for the development of law enforcement; and on support for security and stability.

It is important to acknowledge the importance of continuing bilateral assistance and to underline the responsibility of the international community and of the Security Council in relation to Timor-Leste. In this context, I would just like to point out that Portugal, from 1999 to 2003, invested about €300 million in bilateral investment, development assistance programmes and technical-military assistance to Timor-Leste alone. We are ready to maintain this level of support for Timor-Leste and we encourage other countries to do the same.

We note with satisfaction the steady and significant developments in the relationship of Timor-Leste with its neighbours, regarding important issues such as refugees and in the determination of land and maritime borders. We can only encourage the strengthening of these bilateral relations and the settling of all outstanding problems with neighbouring countries in a climate of friendship and trust.

Finally, I would like to reiterate that, as in the past, Portugal will remain committed to the consolidation and development of Timor-Leste and to the United Nations efforts to that effect.

The President: I call on the representative of Australia.

Mr. Dauth (Australia): You will know, Sir, what a personal pleasure it is always for me to address the Council during your presidency.

I want to begin like others, however, by associating Australia with the expressions of condolences extended to our friends in the Russian Federation following the appalling attack in Grozny over the weekend. It is an appalling sign of the times we live in.

I want to begin also, as others have done, and to make a particular point of offering our congratulations and paying our tribute to the work that our former colleague and friend, Kamalesh Sharma, and his colleagues have done in East Timor in the past two years. It has been, as he himself said, good times and bad times, but at all times he has maintained the highest possible standards of professionalism, and we in Australia have very much appreciated that.

We welcome the Security Council's readiness to adopt a draft resolution extending the mandate of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET) for another year through to May 2005. In doing so, Australia congratulates the Secretary-General, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Kamalesh and his team for their excellent work in developing the follow-on UNMISET mission model.

No one would dispute the fact that Timor-Leste has made remarkable progress in its first few years as an independent nation. That success is, of course, primarily due to the commitment and efforts of the people of Timor-Leste. Nevertheless, UNMISET has played an important supporting role. This contribution is testament not only to UNMISET personnel, but also to the continued attention of the Council, the efforts of the Secretariat and the contributions of a number of United Nations Member States.

In that context, the follow-on mission is a highly appropriate response to Timor-Leste's ongoing needs. The mission will help Timor-Leste consolidate the many gains that have been made and will address those gaps in capacity that are still evident. In particular, the Mission will continue to provide solid support to Timor-Leste's fledgling public administration, judicial and security institutions — institutions critical to Timor-Leste's future.

Australia is particularly pleased with the shape of the security sector support, with both a small peacekeeping force and a 125-member international response unit to provide backup support to Timor-Leste's security forces in emergency situations. This arrangement will provide a strong and stable security platform for Timor-Leste in the year ahead.

We are pleased to reiterate to the Council and to Timor-Leste that Australia will continue to provide strong support to UNMISET, including through the contribution of personnel to the peacekeeping, military liaison officer and police adviser contingents.

Australia will also continue to be a major provider of bilateral development assistance to Timor-

Leste. Currently, Australia is fulfilling the final year of its four-year, $150-million development pledge. Further generous assistance for coming years will shortly be announced. Consistent with our commitment to assisting Timor-Leste to develop strong and effective institutions, Australia, with assistance from the United Kingdom, will be providing a four-and-a-half year, $40-million programme of assistance to develop the capacity of Timor-Leste's police force and justice sector. Australia's significant defence cooperation programme will also continue.

A number of delegations, and especially Minister Ana Pessoa Pinto — who we, like others, very much welcome to New York today — have referred to the importance of maritime delimitation negotiations between East Timor and both Australia and Indonesia. I need hardly say that we, too, recognize the importance of those talks. In this context, I want to remind the Council that we have already negotiated valid and generous interim arrangements, and I was pleased this morning, I have to say, to hear Minister Ana Pessoa Pinto's expression of confidence in Australia as a negotiating partner in these very important negotiations.

May I conclude by restating to the Council that Australia is committed to supporting and working closely with UNMISET for the term of its renewed mandate. Australia wishes the follow-on mission every success and will actively contribute to that success.

The President: I thank the representative of Australia for his kind words addressed to me.

I now call on the representative of Norway.

Mr. Løvald (Norway): At the outset, I, too, would like to associate myself with remarks made by other delegations over the very tragic loss of life in Grozny following an act of terrorism.

Allow me first, on behalf of the Government of Norway, to express our support for the Government of Timor-Leste, which has made significant achievements in the reconstruction, development and creation of a new nation.

We welcome the report of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor. The United Nations has played a crucial role in the extraordinary political progress made by a newly independent, post-conflict Timor-Leste. However, we must not risk setbacks as a result of premature exit and we need a continued, but modified international presence, as suggested by the Secretary-General, to consolidate the achievements made.

One achievement Norway would like to highlight today is that the role of women has been enhanced in Timor-Leste. According to a report from the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Timor-Leste is number 22 on the ranking of countries with the highest percentage of women in national parliaments. It is fair to say that the work of the United Nations and of the Government to promote gender equality in Timor-Leste has been impressive.

Norway has followed the process of prosecution and trial of those accused of serious crimes and calls for a continued fight against impunity. Furthermore, we are pleased with the work of the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation and we look forward to its final report, to be presented later this year.

In addition to United Nations assistance, bilateral development assistance will also be critical in the years to come. The overall goals for Norwegian support to Timor-Leste are to assist the new State in its efforts to establish sustainable democratic institutions, to promote human rights and to combat poverty through development of a sustainable national economy. Norway remains a firm supporter of Timor-Leste and will attend the donors meeting in Dili from 17 to 19 May.

Lastly, Norway would like to express its gratitude to Kamalesh Sharma, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for his tireless efforts in fulfilling his tasks in Timor-Leste. The contribution of the Special Representative and that of the men and women serving with him have been nothing less than outstanding, and we commend them for the progress made.

The President: I shall now give the floor to Mr. Sharma, if he wishes to respond to any of the comments made.

Mr. Sharma: We have made a very serious inroad into lunchtime, and I would not like to test the apparent popularity of UNMISET by holding forth for too long. Indeed, this is not required of me any more, I feel, in the light of the statement by Senior Minister Ana Pessoa Pinto. She has given much information and clarification and important perspectives for all of us.

We have noted, however, the various points that delegations have made on various issues and security concerns on the rule of law, the national police and further requirements to professionalize it, human rights, serious crime and advisors to public administration. I wish to advise the Council and the delegations that we stand ready to throw further light on any of these issues, should that be desired.

I would only like to restrict myself to thanking all the delegations for their kind and complimentary words directed to myself and to members of UNMISET. I will faithfully communicate these sentiments soon after return. I am convinced that the confidence and encouragement expressed by the Council — indeed, which I have always received — regarding the work being done by them will further galvanize them towards realizing the Council's goals for UNMISET, particularly in this consolidation phase, should it be approved by the Council and on which virtually all members have spoken.

The President: I thank Mr. Sharma for those concluding remarks. Once again, on behalf of the Council, we wish him all the best in the future.

There are no further speakers inscribed on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.4966

Security Council

Fifty-ninth year

Provisional

4966th meeting

Monday, 10 May 2004, 1.40 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Akram	(Pakistan)
Members:	Algeria	Mr. Benmehidi
	Angola	Mr. Lucas
	Benin	Mr. Zinsou
	Brazil	Mr. Tarrisse da Fontoura
	Chile	Mr. Donoso
	China	Mr. Cheng Jingye
	France	Mrs. D'Achon
	Germany	Mr. Von Ungern-Sternberg
	Philippines	Ms. Taguiang
	Romania	Mr. Motoc
	Russian Federation	Mr. Konuzin
	Spain	Ms. Menéndez
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Thomson
	United States of America	Mr. Holliday

Agenda

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

04-34400 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 1.40 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council unequivocally condemns the terrorist bomb attack that took place on 9 May 2004 in Grozny, the Russian Federation, as a result of which many people were injured and killed, including the President of the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation, Akhmad Kadyrov.

"The Security Council condemns also in the strongest terms the perpetrators of this heinous act committed against innocent people at the stadium when celebrating the Victory Day — the most solemn national holiday in the Russian Federation.

"The Security Council expresses its deepest sympathy and condolences to the people and to the Government of the Russian Federation and to the victims and their families.

"The Security Council urges all States, in accordance with their obligation under resolution 1373 (2001), to cooperate with the Russian authorities in their efforts to bring to justice the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of this attack.

"The Security Council reaffirms that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, whenever and by whomsoever committed.

"The Security Council expresses its determination to combat all forms of terrorism, in accordance with its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2004/14.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.45 p.m.